

Journal of the Royal Institute of British Architects

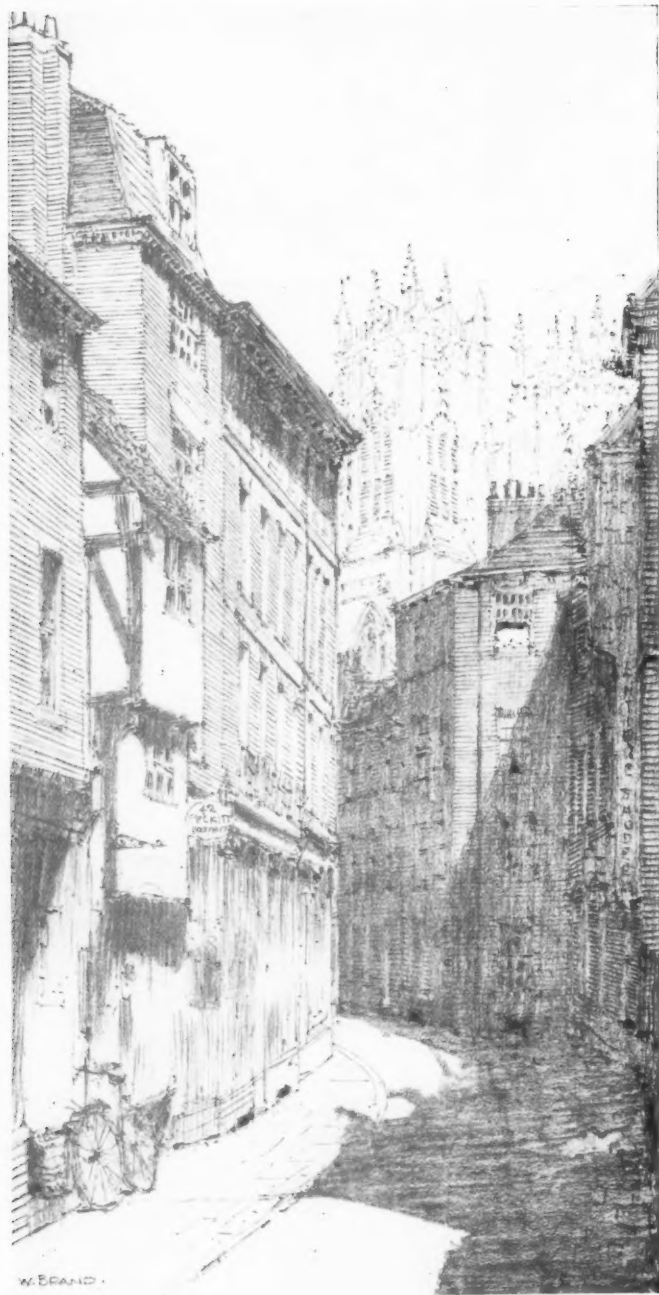
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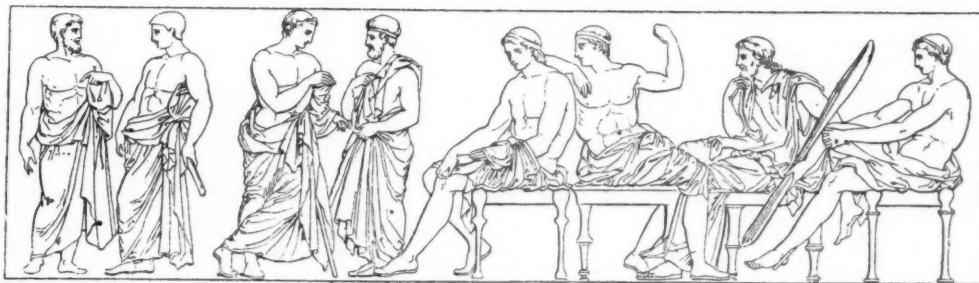
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PETERGATE, YORK

From a Pencil Drawing by Walter Brand [A.]



BRITISH ARCHITECTS' CONFERENCE AT YORK

Inaugural Meeting, 13 June 1929

THE Conference assembled on Thursday morning, 13 June 1929, in the Tempest Anderson Hall, Yorkshire Philosophical Society's Museum, York, under the Presidency of Mr. Walter Tapper, A.R.A., F.S.A., P.R.I.B.A.

The Lord Mayor of York (Councillor E. J. L. Rymer) and the Sheriff of York (Mr. E. A. Birks) welcomed the Conference to the City.

The Lord Mayor said: Our ancient city should appeal to you in many ways. We have many ancient buildings which we as citizens are proud of. In bygone days they knew how to build, and they built to last. Yorkshire is rich in old abbeys and churches, built, many of them, by the Normans; probably with our money, but with their brains. One of the features which impresses me about the abbeys is not so much the abbeys and the building of them as the districts in which they are situated. Those old monks knew the beauty of district, and our Yorkshire abbeys are to be found in very fine positions and in places well worth seeing. We owe a great debt to the Normans for their buildings. St. Mary's Abbey, in the grounds here, is only one sample of what they could do—a large Benedictine monastery built in 1087. It must have been one of the finest buildings on record: we only have the remains of it now. Our city also contains a few modern buildings which may not appeal to you: they don't appeal to some of us.

At our last Council Meeting, following your suggestion, we called for powers under the Town Planning Act to control the line of buildings, and also advertisements. Some of us are a little jealous of the ancient city; we do not want it to lose its picturesqueness; we want to keep it in character.

Before commencing his inaugural address the President said that his first duty to perform was a very sad one. He was sorry to say, as they all knew, that Mr. Haywood, who was going to read his paper that morning, was not able to be present as his wife had just died. He, therefore, proposed, with the consent of the Conference, to send Mr. Haywood a telegram to express their sympathy with him in his great bereavement. Mr. Alwyn Lloyd had kindly consented to read Mr. Haywood's paper, which they appreciated.

In his address the President said:—

We know how much we have before us in the way of instruction, pleasure and interest during our three days here, and we trust that the citizens of York may have something to learn from us too. This morning we are to hear and discuss a paper on the Control of Elevation, by Mr. Haywood. That is a subject which should interest every citizen who cares about his city, just as keenly as it interests us; and we trust that you will feel that this Conference of ours is not merely an occasion for pleasant outings, luncheons and dinners—though I always enjoy that side of it more than the other, perhaps—but that it has a serious purpose which will be fully illustrated by the paper we are about to hear.

The architects present know that in less than three weeks I shall be laying down the care and the responsibilities of the Presidency, and handing them over to my friend, Sir Banister Fletcher—whose photograph I saw this morning in *The Times*. You know a great deal about Sir Banister, and the sort of work he does. He has been the main mover concerning the bridges over the Thames in London, to prevent what would

have been almost an atrocity—St. Paul's Bridge—spoiling entirely the view of the east end of St. Paul's. Then again, he was a great mover in the preservation of our city churches. It is a curious thing that when we have a beautiful thing in this country we want to shut it out. There seems to be a blindness, a sort of lack of vision in this kind of thing. Anyhow, he has been a tremendous help, and has had the interest of beauty and the interests of the Royal Institute very much at heart, and I am perfectly sure that with the loyalty which the Council and members of the Royal Institute always show to its President he will be of great help to the Royal Institute.

You will understand me when I say what a special pleasure it is to me to be able to discharge the last duty of my term of office in the City of York, under the shadow of the Minster.

York is one of the "Holy Cities" of architecture in this country, one of those places to which we are never tired of making pilgrimage, to renew our knowledge, to indulge in our keenest pleasures, and to strengthen and refresh our souls. In this city, with its ancient origin in the days of Roman dominion, with its great place in the history of our country, with its varied and beautiful treasures of architecture, and, above all, with its wonderful Minster—we architects who love our art can renew our pride in this great calling, and can return from it to the often dull and disheartening experiences of daily life with fresh hope and fresh energy.

During my period of office it has been my chief aim to bring home to my brother architects a realisation of the dignity and greatness of their calling, and to summon them to lift up their hearts and prove themselves worthy of it; and, secondly, I have taken every opportunity that has come to me of reminding the public at large—whom we serve—of the vital importance of this art of ours and of the part which it should play in the worthy development of our civilisation. I have not, I am glad to say, been a voice crying in the wilderness, for in the last few years the voice of the Royal Institute has been reinforced by many others. All over the country people are realising that we have a wonderful inheritance of beauty in many of our towns and villages, that this inheritance needs instant protection from the spoiler, and that it is the duty of all of us to see that we, in our generation, help to add something of beauty to the gifts that we have received from those who went before us. But in spite of all that has been said and done, it remains true that to many people in this country beauty still seems to be merely one of the luxuries of life; business and the making of money come first, and, if the claims of these appear to clash, there is no doubt that beauty must go to the wall. At times we see horrible examples of this blindness in the City of London, in Oxford, in Chester, even in York.

We shall never be able to feel that we have kept a true balance until we have ensured that some knowledge and appreciation of the arts is part of the ordinary educational endowment of every man and woman in this country who claim to have any education at all. That seems to me to be the crying need of the day. Until you get the educational authorities to realise this, and see that the people are educated to it, I do not believe that it is possible to get universal fine architecture.

In all this, I am very glad to say—and I see Mr. Fletcher sitting there, who, as Chairman of the Board of Architectural Education, will bear me out—that we have to a very large extent the educational authorities with us. We want them a little stronger, but they are coming along, and I believe in due course we shall have them entirely, and it is absurd to imagine that we should not have them with us. These authorities, I believe, are realising, as we do, that true civilisation is not a matter that depends upon wealth and commercial prosperity, and in transportation and the modern luxuries of life. Along with these there may be the evidence of barbarism and there often is. You can see it all round to-day. The reason is that the people are not educated in art. It is not necessary to spend a lot of money to get the refinement and "atmosphere" of your surroundings; this can be done without a great deal of cost. If there is a blindness to beauty and dignity, an absence of the spiritual element in life, it is a loss to us all. Our work is really a spiritual thing, really uplifting. That has not been realised so much as it should be, and I am quite sure that the absence of the spiritual element in life means that our civilisation is a delusion; and it is a vain boast to speak of a great country or a great nation in the greatest sense. It is no use when a country like this, a beautiful country, is being ruined by vulgarity. It is no use talking about the greatness and the progress of the country when you have seen the great abbeys and delightful houses which were built when they were not, as so many people say, so enlightened as we are to-day. I believe this is a dark age in the truest sense of the word; there is a lack of vision in all these matters. Until we come to realise that these things matter we are not really a great country, nor are we progressive. Take the ordinary things of life which surround you, which you use—your inkstands, your glass, or the cover on your table. Nothing shows the progress of a country more than the things it produces: that is the best method of showing whether you are progressing or whether you are not.

Whilst we are trying to educate our children, what have we to do, we architects? We have a task of unsurpassed importance. In our work we must remember practical utility—of course, that goes without saying, and convenience and reasonable economy, not cheapness. We must also remember that unless our

work has dignity, refinement and beauty, we have been false to our nobler opportunities. Do not imagine that these qualities necessarily cost money. We have all seen many new buildings in which the saving of thousands of pounds would have produced an infinitely better result. You can see that, I think, in York. With regard to our factories, for instance, which in the 18th century were simple, now they are to be

seen with a large amount of ornamentation, costing a great deal of money, which could with advantage to these buildings be eliminated. That has got to be remembered to-day, but we are already seeing a tremendous improvement in that respect. All these qualities demand devotion, patient care and high ideals, and it is whilst our children are being educated that we should supply that demand.

Control of Elevations

BY WILLIAM HAYWOOD [F.].

[A Paper read at the Inaugural Meeting of the British Architects' Conference at York on Thursday, 13 June 1929.]

THE need for power to check incompetent design for building elevations has been discussed at some length during the past few years; and the matter has now been given so much publicity that we find ourselves somewhat unprepared with the machinery to operate this power if it should be granted.

A model clause for procedure to operate control under the Town Planning Act of 1925 has, in fact, been issued by the Ministry of Health; and Clause 128 of the Bath Act of 1925 takes power to exercise control in that city. But I am not alone in the opinion that the procedure laid down in both these instances is wrongly conceived, and that they provide an additional reason for further inquiry by this Institute.

Presumably, I have been asked to read this paper, on the assumption that six years' experience as Honorary Secretary of an Advisory Art Committee, which has now reported upon more than three hundred designs and sites for buildings which have been voluntarily submitted, should be helpful. I hope that it may be so, but the problem is difficult, and there are even those who are of opinion that we shall do more harm than good by advocating a control which may so easily become interfering and doctrinaire.

We are told by Monsieur Luis Georges Pineau, in an article on "Architectural Control Over Town Development in France," that it is only under restrictions laid down for the pre-eighteenth century royal squares, and the servitudes attached to the Place de l'Etoile and the Rue de Rivoli, that it has been possible to exercise any great amount of aesthetic control over elevations in Paris, and the extent to which Paris has succeeded in expressing herself architecturally under this limited control may perhaps be considered an argument for non-interference.

We remember, however, that Paris has been exceptional in the many far-reaching and unpremeditated circumstances which have invited an orderly growth; in the use made of these circumstances by a logical people; in the military and political importance attached to coherent road planning and architectural display; and in experiencing the comparative ease with which a high standard of design is maintained once it has been established.

The influence of non-aesthetic or partially aesthetic bye-law control of elevations in Paris first appears in a

decree of 1806, which limits the height of buildings; a decree which has since been modified to define heights by an imaginary arc containing the profile of the building, and varying with the width of the street. A law of 1811 permits the Prefect of the Seine to impose certain building regulations; and a "Superior Council of Civil Building" safeguards amenities so far as building perspectives are concerned (whatever that may mean); but there are still no laws governing aesthetics; except in the case of the monumental perspectives referred to.

As it is not intended to limit this discussion of control to the elevations of buildings only, but to include sites and building accessories, we may note that the Architects of the Municipality of Paris can prevent the "uglyfication" of roads by rejecting the plans of kiosks, tram stops, fire alarms, etc., where these are considered unsuitable; and that they may if necessary refer such matters to the Inspector-General of Architectural Services, an official who is usually an architect with the Government diploma, and sometimes a member of the Academy of Fine Arts. It would appear also that with respect to aesthetic control under Town Planning Laws in France such provisions as exist have proved to be as theoretical and inoperative as the hopes for aesthetic betterment expressed in the Town Planning Acts of our own country.

I give these notes on Parisian conditions because we may regard Paris as a city which has done well enough under very little control. Yet I repeat that Paris is exceptional, and I need hardly say that there is plenty of evidence in Paris and elsewhere in France to support the plea for a different method of procedure.

Germany appears to be better supplied with authority for the control of elevations than France or ourselves. I can give no idea of the extent of this control; but German town government differs so much from our own that her methods would probably need some adjustment to suit English conditions. I regret the absence of this German data, because it has probably been thought out and applied with a completeness very useful for such an inquiry as this.

Sweden would seem to be less in need of "control" than other nations. Outside the capital she does not appear to suffer from the major aesthetic troubles of industrialism, and Stockholm itself has the aesthetic ad-

vantages of all capital cities, which she has known how to use with effect.

In at least one respect, however, Sweden provides material which is related directly to our subject. She has a national Advisory Art Bureau, which may be consulted by anyone interested in the application of art to industry; or in the commissioning of artists or architects for new works. This Bureau is served by the best talent in the country; it is freely consulted; and among the evidence of its influence is the present high quality of Swedish arts and crafts. Sweden has to-day the good fortune to be in the grip of a vigorous and spontaneous art expression, which is strongly supported by the highest social influence; conditions which are highly favourable to the application of such control as she may need.

The United States of America proceed to the control of elevations chiefly by means of Art Commissions. They have many such commissions, varying greatly as to the ground covered and the extent of the veto. In New York the powers given to the local Commission by an Act of 1907 are emphatic, not only as regards municipally owned sites and buildings, but also in respect of "structures and approaches which are the property of any Corporation or private individual, which shall extend over or upon any street, avenue, highway, park or public space belonging to the City"; the only limitation of full control being the power of the mayor to ask for the individual exclusion of structures costing less than \$250,000; a request that I understand has never been made; and also some strictly limited negative action reserved to the Park Board. It should be noted that these drastic powers were acquired by New York as a sort of confirmation of procedure which had already justified itself on a voluntary basis.

In Washington a "National Commission of Fine Arts" was established in 1910 by Act of Congress. The provisions of this Act are compulsory as to submission but free as to acceptance, and the matters dealt with are chiefly monumental. Building elevations may be read into the scope of the Act, but they are not specifically mentioned in it.

The limitations of the Washington Commission, and the need for further control, are indicated by the appearance, some seven or eight years ago, of the "Architects' Advisory Council," a body initiated by the Washington Chapter of the American Institute of Architects, which is making a vigorous attempt to improve the quality of design in local private building. I shall return later to this Washington experiment in the professional guidance of design for private building, because I believe it to be in some respects one of the most promising methods of dealing with our problem.

In England the first body to be given any sort of authorised standing with respect to the criticism of Building Elevations was the Birmingham Advisory Art Committee. This Committee was constituted in June 1922. It is not a Committee of the Birmingham Civic Society as is sometimes supposed, but was initiated by the Lord Mayor, the Chairman of the Public Works Department, the Rt. Hon. Neville Chamberlain, M.P., and the Chairman, Honorary Secretary and delegates of the Civic Society, as a semi-Municipal Committee, for the purpose of reporting to the Corporation upon any designs

submitted by the Departments of the Municipality. These designs may be prepared by the Departments referred to, or by independent architects, but they refer only to buildings for municipal purposes, or to private buildings on municipal land. There is no power to call for the submission of designs for private building on private land, because in 1922 the prospect of a successful appeal for such powers was remote. It should be noted that even these municipal submissions are made at the pleasure of the departments concerned, but that nevertheless some three hundred designs of buildings and building sites have been made in the six years of the Committee's existence. It may be said, therefore, that the feasibility of this Committee's procedure has been established.

The Royal Fine Art Commission was set up in May 1924. This body also is advisory. It has no power of veto, and no statutory powers in the first instance. Its advice may be sought by the Government or by any other authority of standing, upon any "artistic question in the open air," and its opinion has been sought on matters of considerable national importance, although the exact number of consultations to date is not on record.

The third Advisory Art Committee working in England is that of Leicester, which was initiated in 1924, and has had the encouraging number of 44 submissions to date from most of the important Committees of the City Council.

Other machinery for the control of design in England (in anything more than an incidental manner) is found in Clause 128 of the Bath Act of 1925, and in the amended City of Birmingham South Town Planning scheme of 1925, to both of which I shall refer in more detail later.

In this brief sketch of the extent to which control of elevations is attempted or sanctioned in different countries to-day, it is easy to see the growth of a general conviction that a check of some kind should be placed upon ugliness in the design of buildings and building accessories.

We see also a number of experiments in the application of control with this end in view, and I cannot but feel that this paper should have presented to you an authoritative statement of the extent to which these experiments have succeeded; together with the views of the executive officers concerned as to the extent and value of the work so far accomplished. Time has not permitted the preparation of this record however, and I therefore proceed to a consideration of some views arising out of experience with the Birmingham Advisory Art Committee.

In the first place I question the title of this paper. In my opinion the word "control" is too drastic a term for the sort of action that is desirable or likely to be possible in this country. It conveys the wrong idea to the lay mind, and also to those architects who object to any action which interferes with the free expression of art. I consider that anything more definite than "counsel" or "advice" in such matters, is contrary to the interests of art, and, all things considered, I have seen no better term than "Advisory Art Committee" or "Commission," as a title for art juries. It has the disadvantage, perhaps, of being somewhat indefinite, but, on the other hand, it does not challenge resentment, and fairly indicates an inspection or guidance of art in which there is no drastic interference.

Next, it is important to realise just where we stand in this matter with respect to the powers of Local Govern-

ment. You will observe that Local Authorities, who have for many years exercised control over certain technical details of design, are reaching out here and there—as we see by the Bath Act and other powers granted or applied for—for the extension of their authority to the control of designs for building elevations. We may conclude from this that not only are local authorities fully aware of the present trend of public opinion, but that they consider themselves the proper authority to operate any new powers that may be granted for this purpose.

The Model Clause of the Ministry of Health and the Bath Act support them in this view. Sub-clause 4 of the former and Sub-clause 3 (a) of the latter permit the Corporation to approve elevations without submission to the Associated Advisory Committee at all, and the procedure generally is such that the approval of all designs (including all those of official architecture) is in the hands of the borough surveyor and borough councillors, and refers only a limited number of designs—thought doubtful by those with but little knowledge of the subject—to an inadequate committee of taste.

I have not thought it necessary to repeat here the clauses of the Bath Act, and the criticism of it already made in an article which appeared in the *Architects' Journal* of 6 July 1927, but I am not aware that the Ministry's Model Clauses are generally known, and I therefore give them in full as representing the present opinion of the Ministry of Health.

TOWN PLANNING MODEL CLAUSES—ELEVATIONS OF BUILDINGS.

(1) Any person intending to erect a building in any existing or proposed street within Zones . . . shall furnish the Council (in addition to any plans and particulars required to be submitted under the Byelaws and Local Acts), with drawings of the elevations of the building, together with a specification or other sufficient indication of the materials to be used in those parts of the building which are comprised in the elevations.

The drawings shall be upon suitable and durable material to a scale of not less than one inch to every eight feet, except that, where the building is so extensive as to render a smaller scale necessary, it shall suffice if the elevations are drawn to a scale of not less than one inch to every sixteen feet.

(2) For the purpose of assisting the Council in the exercise of the power of approving or disapproving elevations hereinafter conferred, a standing Advisory Committee of three members (in this clause called "the Advisory Committee") shall be constituted for the Area, of whom one member shall be a Fellow of the Royal Institute of British Architects to be nominated by the President of the said Institute, one member shall be a Fellow of the Surveyors' Institution to be nominated by the President of the said Institution, and one member shall be a Justice of the Peace to be nominated by the Council.

Provided that a member of the Council shall be disqualified from being a member of the Advisory Committee.

(3) Subject as aforesaid, the members of the Advisory

Committee shall be appointed by the Council, and any vacancy occurring on the Advisory Committee shall be filled by the Council on the nomination of the person or body by whom the member causing the vacancy was nominated. The Council may pay the members of the Advisory Committee such reasonable fees and expenses as the Council think fit.

(4) The Council shall within one month after the submission to them of any elevations—

(a) Approve the elevations; or

(b) If they consider that, having regard to the general character of the existing buildings in the street or of the buildings proposed therein to be erected, the building to which the elevations relate would seriously disfigure the street, whether by reason of the height of the building (notwithstanding that the height conforms with the requirements of clause . . .) or the design of the building or the materials proposed to be used in its construction, refer the question of the approval of the elevations to the Advisory Committee for their decision thereon, and the reference shall be accompanied by a statement of the grounds on which the proposed building is considered to be objectionable.

(5) The Council shall forthwith send notice in writing to the person by whom the elevations were submitted of their approval thereof, or, if the building is considered to be objectionable on any of the grounds mentioned in this clause, of the reference of the elevations to the Advisory Committee, and the notice shall be accompanied by a statement of the objections to the building.

(6) (a) The person by whom the elevations were submitted shall, within fourteen days of his receiving notice of the reference to the Advisory Committee, be entitled to send to the Advisory Committee a statement of his answers to the objections of the Council, and, if he does so, he shall at the same time send a copy thereof to the Clerk to the Council.

(b) The Advisory Committee shall, within one month after the receipt of the reference, decide whether, having regard to the considerations mentioned in paragraph (b) of sub-clause 4, they approve or disapprove the elevations, and their decision shall be final and conclusive. The Advisory Committee shall not, however, disapprove the elevations on any other grounds than those specified in the Council's statement of objections herein before referred to without first giving not less than ten days' notice of their intention to the person submitting the elevations to the Council, and hearing any representations which either party may make to them before the expiration of the notice.

Subject as aforesaid, the Advisory Committee in arriving at their decision, may adopt such procedure as they think fit, and, if the elevations are disapproved, the decision of the Advisory Committee shall contain a statement of the grounds on which the proposed building is considered to be objectionable.

(7) The decision of the Advisory Committee, shall be in writing signed by them and a copy of the decision shall as soon as may be after the determination of the reference be sent to the Council and to the person by whom the elevations were submitted.

(8) In the event of a division of opinion among the members of the Advisory Committee upon reference to them, the matter shall be decided by a majority of votes of the members of the Committee, but, save as aforesaid, the Advisory Committee shall act by their whole number.

(9) (a) No building shall be erected the elevations of which have been disapproved under this clause.

(b) No building shall be erected in any existing or proposed street in zones.... the elevations of which have not been approved under this clause, except where the Council or the Advisory Committee, as the case may be, have not given a decision under sub-clauses (4) and (6) within the periods fixed therein for the purpose.

(10) The costs of any reference to the Advisory Committee shall be paid as the Advisory Committee may direct. Where such costs or part thereof are payable by the person submitting the elevations, they shall be recoverable by the Council summarily as a civil debt, and, where such costs or part thereof are payable by the Council, they shall be recoverable by the person submitting the elevations in the like manner.

(11) The provisions of this clause shall not apply to any building exempt from the operations of the by-laws with respect to new streets and buildings made by the Council on..... and confirmed by the Minister on..... under paragraphs.....* of byelaw thereof, so long as those buildings continue to be exempt from these byelaws or any byelaws of a like kind which may be substituted therefor."

In brief, these clauses stipulate:—

(1) That the architects of buildings in areas within a town planning scheme shall submit elevations and specification of materials as well as plans and sections to the Local Authority.

(2) That the Local Authority may approve any design, including those of its own architects, without submission to the Advisory Committee at all, but in case of doubt or disapproval, they must take the opinion of a small Advisory Committee.

(3) That the time permitted the Council for approval is one month, and one month also is allowed to the Advisory Committee from the date of reference to them with the possibility of further delays in case of dispute.

(4) That the reports of the Advisory Committee (consisting of one Architect, one Surveyor and one Justice of the Peace) are given power of veto in respect of those designs submitted to them.

The Birmingham Corporation has the following special provision in the amended Birmingham (South) Town Planning Scheme:—"If, having regard to the situation and surroundings of any building or buildings proposed to be erected or altered, or the character of neighbouring buildings erected or in course of erection, the Corporation are satisfied that the building or buildings will be a serious disfigurement by reason of the design or of the undue repetition of design or of the materials to be used therein, and that a modification in the design or in the materials which will avoid the disfigurement can be made without involving appreciable increase in cost or appreciable loss of utility, the Corporation may (subject to

appeal to the Minister under clause 41 hereof) require such modification to be made."

"For the purpose of this clause, any person submitting plans for the erection or alteration of any buildings shall furnish to the Corporation at the cost of the Corporation all such plans and particulars as may be reasonably required by the Corporation, in addition to those required to be submitted under the bye-laws relating to new streets and to buildings for the time being in force in the area."

You will observe that nothing is said here of any new machinery to operate the powers conferred upon the Corporation, and we are left to assume that the designs are to be judged by means even less satisfactory than those of Bath. Moreover, although the clause appears to mean that extra drawings will only be demanded and paid for by the Corporation where they have reason to anticipate "disfigurement" by poor design, it is not easy to see how the failures are to be anticipated. I have no knowledge of any action arising from this clause.

The position of affairs indicated by these notes on the movement of local authorities towards the control of the aesthetic aspects of building is surely not one that we can accept; and in opposing it I like to believe that it is really the outcome of a misunderstanding as to the proper function of the several interests concerned. These I would set down as follows:—First, that no local authority can be expected to abate its standing as the ultimate authority in local affairs; and therefore that art juries or commissions which seek to use the quality of local government by compelling the submission of municipal or private designs for examination and report must realise that this will be possible only under the aegis of the local authority. Second, that once the supremacy of the local authority is agreed, the work to be done, up to the point of formal approval, lies naturally in the hands of impartial and competent technical committees.

This classification of function may seem obvious to those familiar both with the work of local governments and that of design; but there is a deal of misunderstanding among architects and local councillors alike as to the proper limits of technical and of administrative functions, and there can be no doubt that we shall make better progress towards our common objective when both claimants see more clearly the proper range of their function in so delicate a matter as the adjudication of aesthetic expression.

With respect to the personnel of advisory art commissions I think it wise to avoid as far as possible the personal factor in election by arranging for a fairly large proportion of ex-officio members. There are positions in all localities which carry with them a sufficient qualification for such membership, and by this method of election a certain amount of automatic change is secured. In addition to representatives of the general cultural institutions of the area to be served, the offices represented would naturally include members of the Local Government, their technical staff, and the mayor as president. This nucleus to have power to co-opt non-official members to be chosen for technical knowledge of the work to be done.

As the number of submissions increased it would become necessary to increase the number of technical members still further; and this would probably be best accomplished by a rotation of short period service, in

* Paragraphs corresponding to paragraphs (a) to (i) of Model Byelaw 2 of Urban Series.

periods of not less than one week, after the manner of the Washington "Architects' Advisory Council"; where an executive of three out of fifty-two members of the technical council meets each week to adjudicate. Each week one new member is added from the waiting list and one dropped, in accordance with a schedule of assignments for the year. This schedule is arranged and sponsored by a co-ordinating committee of the Washington Chapter of the Institute of Architects.

It is of course clear that from the moment that designs for private buildings come up for consideration the amount of work to be done is so much increased as to make imperative such a rotation of technical experts as that referred to, or the adoption of the unpleasant alternative of a permanent staff.

With respect to the extent of powers granted for the purpose of supervising the design of elevations, I am strongly opposed to the power of veto. There is danger for the essential freedom of art in such a power, and experience of the influence of reasoned advice leads one to the conclusion that while it is not always taken, yet unreasonable and persistent opposition is rare.

We have also to consider the extent and kind of advice to be given, and this will probably lead to some difference of opinion. For instance, are we to check all submissions in accordance with the particular quality of design we practise ourselves? And I ask this question because I have had actual experience of highly individualistic points of view which would almost as readily approve the worst product of the jerry-builder as the work of a rival school of design. You will repudiate this attitude, I am sure, but the doctrine exists, and must be dealt with by the adoption of a generous policy by the Commission as a whole.

What, then, is to be the scope of our work? My own view is, that the proper work of Advisory Art Commissions lies, first, in giving advice on the choice of executants for new works, after the manner of the Swedish Advisory Council already referred to; and second, in checking in simple and broad terms incompetent designs for buildings and building accessories. I would not exclude the constructive criticism of designs of better quality, but it is obvious that the higher the quality of design the more diffident should be the criticism; and the more obvious, too, the need for proceeding by advice rather than by compulsion.

The delicate matter of maintaining intact the standing of the designer with his client, a standing which might be prejudiced if a design were too openly challenged, is met in the Birmingham practice by reporting the result of the preliminary examination privately to the designer, obtaining his agreement, or adjusting the criticism in the light of his comment, and omitting all reference to such alterations as may be mutually agreed in this manner from the official report to the Committee as a whole.

It is not necessary to enlarge further upon the details of our Birmingham experience; they call for an adaptive mind, a considerable display of tact, and every consideration for the other man's point of view. The most interesting of our experiences cannot, of course, be revealed.

There are still two movements relative to our subject to which reference must be made. The first of these is the work of the Washington "Architects' Advisory

Council" already referred to. The scope of the Council is limited to the design of *private* building, new designs for *public* buildings being already controlled by the "National Commission." It seeks to influence design for the elevation of buildings at as early a date as possible, and generally at the time of submission, but before sanction by the Local Authority in respect of sanitary and constructional requirements has been obtained.

The jury meets in the office of the Assistant Engineer Commissioner, and no building permits are delayed by this procedure; but whether permits are granted or not the designs are criticised; and these criticisms are forwarded each week to the owner or architect concerned. There is no compulsion. The advice is sometimes taken, sometimes left, but the result on a whole is said to be a substantial balance to the good.

Most of the ablest architects of Washington are members of this novel council, and they are all liable to service upon an arbitrary assignment. The general tenor of a manifesto issued by the Council is to the effect that it "is determined to make good architecture better and bad architecture impossible in Washington, under a penalty of public exposure."

The underlying idea may also be seen in the following extract from a recent circular: "As the movement is now shaping up, it becomes not only a matter of bettering each building as it is erected, but by the writing of carefully phrased reviews it becomes a matter of education of the building public. These reviews are not going into the files as many of them have done in the past, but they are going to be seriously considered by the people of the section in which the buildings are erected; and the promoters are going to be approached by the citizens to find out whether or not they are co-operating. In case co-operation is not forthcoming because of disagreement with the findings, the way is left open for further consideration by succeeding juries. In case there is lack of co-operation because of lack of sympathy with the idea of better building, then the element of public opinion will become a factor. Here, again, a grave responsibility will rest upon the architects, because this movement must by no chance become a force which might be construed as a censorship of art. Nor can it concern itself with petty details of design. It is for the elimination of ugliness and for the bettering of good work."

I have already referred to the method of maintaining an active and constantly changing jury of three from a reserve of fifty-three local architects; and the attitude of the profession itself may be seen in the following resolution. "Resolved that the Board of Directors of the American Institute of Architects expressed its appreciation of the public service of the Washington Architects in the institution and maintenance of the Architects' Advisory Council, organised for the betterment of private buildings in the National Capital. It recognises the possibilities in the work, the opportunity to contribute largely to the development of the Capital and to supplement the work of the Fine Arts and Planning Commissions, and it urges upon the individual architect a full realisation of the opportunity and of the responsibility."

This work in Washington has the merit of being a broadly conceived honorary service; operated by the profession itself, and countenanced apparently by the

Local Authority, since it meets in the office of the Assistant Engineer Commissioner, and is given access to the plans submitted to the Local Authority for another purpose.

There is no legal standing, however, and results must be obtained by persuasion, assisted in obstinate cases by the coercive power of public opinion.

I do not put this procedure forward as entirely suitable to English conditions, especially in respect to some of its publicity methods (not referred to in this paper). But it contains many features which should appeal to the professional mind, and it has an important bearing upon any consideration of the control of elevations.

The second movement to which I have referred is one recently put forward by this Institute, viz., "to create in a series of approved zones covering the whole of the kingdom, probably in co-operation with the C.P.R.E., panels of local qualified architects, who, working upon co-partnership principles, shall provide for speculative builders, designs for small houses, etc., which by virtue of their common use, might otherwise endanger the amenities of the countryside and which could be provided for less than scale fees."

With these two examples the subject for discussion may perhaps be considered as fairly outlined and ready for debate. I therefore venture to submit a list of headings under which the discussion may be allowed to proceed.

(1) That this Conference is opposed to the power of veto being given to any Commission or other authority established for the purpose of bettering the design of elevations.

(2) That the ultimate authority for operating Advisory Art Commissions must be the authority of the Local Government.

(3) That the Local Government be represented on

such Commissions by members of its Council and its Technical Officers, not exceeding in number one-fourth of the whole.

(4) That not less than one-half of the members of such a Commission be elected ex-officio, representing the Educational, Artistic, Architectural and general cultural institutions of the area to be served.

(5) That such Commissions have power to co-opt not more than one-fourth of their total number from the ranks of local architects and craftsmen, such co-optation to be given a varying tenure of office to suit local conditions.

(6) That copies of elevations of all buildings, whether National, Municipal or Private, should be submitted to an office assigned for that purpose, but that no duplicate copies for record purposes should be required.

(7) That adjudication of elevations be given within two weeks of submission, or approval go by default.

(8) That all criticism be first adjusted as far as possible with the author of the design, and no record made of criticism met by this initial procedure.

(9) That all matters referred to such Commissions be held in strict confidence.

(10) That this Institute send out a questionnaire, or take other means to obtain from representative Architectural opinion abroad an authoritative statement of the extent to which control of elevational design has succeeded with them, together with the views of the executive officers concerned as to any adjustments which their experience may indicate as desirable.

(11) That the conclusions of this Conference be referred to a Committee of the R.I.B.A. for further consideration with a view to drafting a memorandum for submission to the Ministry of Health and the representatives of Local Government in Great Britain.

Discussion

THE PRESIDENT, MR. WALTER TAPPER, A.R.A., F.S.A., IN THE CHAIR.

Mr. ARTHUR KEEN [F.], in proposing the vote of thanks to Mr. Haywood for his paper, and to Mr. Alwyn Lloyd for reading it to the Conference, said :—

Mr. Haywood's paper has covered so much ground that it has been rather difficult to follow it; he has given us so many facts and so much information about what is done in various places that one cannot deal with it all. But the sum and substance of it seemed to be, what is a very well-known fact, that you cannot legislate successfully very far ahead of general public opinion. It is no good attempting it. We have the evidence in America in the matter of Prohibition; they have gone a bit further than public opinion decreed. But the setting up of commissions and exerting some control or advice over the development of building is a very effective force. There is no better way of educating the public. If they find that in all matters of design—at all events of design of important buildings and structures—there is going to be careful and considered criticism, it will make them extremely careful what they do and they will take much greater pains to secure good results. I think that Mr.

Haywood has shown sound judgment in his review of the whole matter and his comprehension of how far it is possible to go, and where you have got to stop. He speaks very clearly of the coercive power of public opinion. There is no doubt that there is nothing stronger than public opinion; nobody is proof against it. You have only got to agitate and press and push the things that you want, and in course of time you influence public opinion, and in that way you influence those who have the actual control and handling of things generally.

Mr. Haywood showed that veto is undesirable, and it is quite impossible. We have got to content ourselves with giving advice; but the more we do it, the more we press for it, the sounder the advice will be on the one hand, and the more likely, on the other hand, that it will be followed. I think on the whole that people are anxious to do the right thing; it is ignorance that prevents them more than anything else. People want their cities to be fine, their buildings to be well designed—public buildings especially, and their own houses. But they do not know how to do it, they do not adopt the right methods, and they do not

go to the right people. I think it would be valuable if architects would apply themselves to local government more than they do; there would be no difficulty about architects getting on to the Councils in most of our cities, but there are comparatively few who do. I think their advice and help and their influence on the Councils would be invaluable in matters of this kind, and they would be able so much more effectively to do good work from within than they can from without.

A note that I made whilst the paper was being read, which I have here, is: who is going to control the controllers? And what I meant by that was that there is great danger, as Mr. Haywood suggested, of people who feel too strongly and are too intolerant of the work of others being put in charge of these things. It is quite possible that a man who feels very strongly about his own art, and adversely criticises the principles and methods of other artists, may be quite the wrong person to be put in charge of this matter. The advice that is given must be very broad and it must not be too insistent. I think the chance of success lies more in preventing the wrong thing from being done than in actually securing the right thing. It is generally not very difficult to prevent the wrong thing, but to define exactly what is wanted, and to get it, is quite another matter.

Mr. H. M. FLETCHER [F.], in seconding the vote of thanks, said: I came here rather prejudiced against the subject of the paper. I have an instinctive prejudice against control. I believe more in education and persuasion, and the effect of enthusiasm, than in prohibition; and therefore it was with great delight that I found as the paper advanced that Mr. Haywood was—may I say—on the right side. He also fears control and compulsion. It is always a difficulty when you argue in favour of moderate measures and you are suddenly brought up against a case where there is nothing for the designer but instant decapitation, and nothing for the building but instant explosion. As in all matters, you have to suit your methods to requirements, but I am sure that, as Mr. Haywood has recommended, the advisory committee without compulsory powers is the method that will in the end produce the most certain and most wholesome results. Architects cannot admit Corporations as competent judges on elevation. With all respect for the work which they do, and the powers they use, you cannot allow that they are competent to judge or control elevations. Many of us have found many friends among the officials of the London County Council, and in the work that is assigned to them—the controlling of plans and the safety of buildings, etc.—they are often extremely helpful; but every London architect would shudder to think what would be the result if they had compulsory power over elevation. The thing that keeps them straight in the buildings they erect themselves, which are often of admirable quality, is that there is no power over them to control their elevations; they do what they choose, and they can choose what is good.

The prospect that Mr. Haywood holds out to us of the amount of work to be done voluntarily is rather paralysing; the amount of voluntary work already in the world, especially in connection with our own calling, is alarming, and the account which he gives of what is done in Washington does not raise one's hopes with regard to the

amount of leisure time there will be in the future. If what we do is in the forwarding of what you, Sir, justly called civilisation, we must do the best with it.

I think that this Conference would be well advised to pass all the resolutions that Mr. Haywood put down at the end of his paper. It is difficult to grasp exactly the purport of resolutions when they are read out once, but I could not see anything that a reasonable person could object to—unless possibly we were to omit the specification of the proportions of committees which he laid down—the quota of technical advisers. There, again, every case would have to be considered on its own merits, and it would be well not to tie it down too rigidly.

The PRESIDENT: The subject is now open to discussion.

Mr. R. T. LONGDEN [F.] said: I can only speak from provincial experience. In some proposals which I recently made to the R.I.B.A. I suggested an advisory board which would be rather an extension of the small committee contained in the Bath clause, and I suggested, in the provincial towns at least, that the Borough Councils should have the power to submit all elevations to such a committee, but that it should include a larger number of qualified architects. One qualified architect, one qualified surveyor, and a Justice of the Peace did not quite meet the case. I wished to have a rota of architects working with this committee very similar to what Mr. Haywood suggests, so that each provincial centre might have its own advisory committee. I think there is no doubt whatever that we could help in educating the public and in gradually lifting the quality of elevations and architecture.

I do not like the word "control" any more than the previous speaker. It would help if we could once get the local Council to admit an advisory panel along those lines.

Mr. T. TALIESIN REES [F.]: I am always looking out for "snags" in matters of this kind. What I feel is—I may be wrong in the view I am taking—that unless we do get some form of compulsion so that an architect is compelled to submit his elevations for criticism and for improvement if possible, certain architects outside the Institute will not submit their elevations; and we will have two classes, one who is quite willing to submit his elevation and another who is not. If you could constitute the board as a part of the municipal government (I do not say that it is competent as we are at present constituted) with power to pass an opinion on elevations, I think it could from outside be reinforced to a very great extent and do a great deal of useful work. The difficulty I see is in compelling all architects, whether they be great or small, to submit their elevations for judgment.

I do not think that the voluntary method is going to work at all. Supposing I design an elevation of a building, submit it to the proposed board or panel, and they pass it. In carrying out my scheme or after further consideration I desire to alter it—and I think I am improving it—have I again to submit my elevation to the board for their inspection and further approval? It often happens in this country that a design is prepared and accepted, and altered when the building is in progress. We have seen this happen over and over again, and especially in large buildings. We have also seen it in

the competitions; when the building is erected it is not at all like the design which was placed first in the competition. What is to be done in such cases?

Rather than optional, I would like to see it made a part of the law of this country that the elevations of all buildings, large or small, must be submitted to a board for approval.

Mr. HASTWELL GRAYSON [F.]: The enormous amount of voluntary work which architects do to-day would be added to in the extra work involved if these advisory boards came into existence. The advisory committee might consist of fifty members, which would mean much extra work. You would have your turn three weeks out of the year. We know perfectly well that these rotas very often do not work out as you expect. It will mean a tremendous amount of unpaid voluntary work. It is a very small point, and we are, of course, all prepared to work very hard for this sort of thing. But unless the right men do go on to the advisory committees, then it will not be successful. I think the seven or eight suggestions at the end of that paper admirable; but possibly to mention figures is a little bit beyond the mark at the moment.

Mr. JOHN KEPPIE [F.]: In the ordinary way I think the idea is extremely good. It is not, of course, very new, and I have no doubt many of us have given consideration to it from time to time. There is the question of election: how you are going to arrive at a decision as to who will be required to be elected on these advisory committees. I have no doubt that the subject will receive very favourable consideration by the Institute, and probably will be subject to considerable modification.

Mr. J. INCH MORRISON [F.]: It may be of interest to refer to the present position of control in Edinburgh. As will be known by all who have practised in the North, the procedure for sanctioning building schemes is somewhat different. Approval of plans is given weekly by a Public Court—the Dean of Guild Court—on which, incidentally, architects are represented. The Court is advised on technical matters by the city engineer. In a recent Provisional Order promoted by the City of Edinburgh, authority was applied for to give the Court power to control elevations and materials. This was opposed in the preliminary stages by the Allied Society in Edinburgh, as it was felt that while such control would be a wise step in preventing unsatisfactory schemes submitted by unqualified persons, it would give rather too much power to the Court, the city engineer and officials generally. The Edinburgh Architectural Association obtained the insertion of a clause in the Provisional Order under which any architect or building owner (the "petitioner" to the Court, as we call him) who may feel aggrieved by the criticism of, or objection to his design, may appeal to the decision of a "tribunal" composed of three members one representing the Royal Scottish Academy (who would naturally be an architect), one representing the Royal Incorporation of Architects in Scotland, and a member appointed by the City but who may not be an official or member of the corporation. I think that, ultimately, the clause in its final form as approved by Government provides for a fourth member of the standing Advisory Committee—who is nominated by the Secretary of State for Scotland. I think that a fairly satisfactory form of control has been established and that there is sufficient

safeguard to prevent its acting unfairly on the promoters of any scheme.

Mr. S. D. KITSON [F.]: The pressing thing in this matter is that we must re-create a tradition; that it is really a matter of education. A hundred years or more ago a regular street was built in Newcastle—Grainger Street. At the present moment in a city twenty-five miles away from here a regular street is now actually being built. The design of this was supplied by Sir Reginald Blomfield and the owners are falling in, after great criticism, with his wishes, and the thing will undoubtedly be a success. But the reason of this success is not that the public is educated up to it, but that the chairman of the Improvements Committee and the city engineer, who are men of great force and character, are determined to get this through; but if we are to have fine streets in our industrial towns it must come through the education of the public themselves rather than through any compulsion on the part of the control of elevations. What we want to do in our industrial cities is to improve the character of the elevations of our streets. It is extraordinarily difficult to get the different owners to behave urbanely to each other, because of the wish to have a building entirely different from that of your neighbour, and as long as that goes on it is very difficult to get anything like civic decorum.

Mr. F. E. PEARCE EDWARDS [F.]: Having had some experience, both from the official side and the work of a private practitioner, I am interested in the trend of the proposals of Mr. Haywood, but they seem to me to be just a trifle dangerous in one direction. For instance, the reference to the Bath clause which Mr. Haywood makes in his paper gives the idea that its operation was in a way subject to the Local Authority. I think not. Under the Act the Tribunal is absolutely independent of the Local Authority, and from that point of view I claim that something very important in principle has been gained. We are all very human, and the average member of an elective assembly is to some extent rather intolerant of criticism from outside, or the delegation of any powers. The point I have to make is that before anything very drastic is suggested for shaping the attitude of the Local Authorities, the subject should be gone into very carefully from every point of view, and that we should be in a position to see whether the powers we already have are working satisfactorily.

Lt.-Col. H. P. CART DE LAFONTAINE [A.]: I have had the opportunity quite recently of learning how that clause works, and it is of great value because the "Advisory Committee" acts for and with the powers of the Local Authority and because there is a certain amount of compulsion. The great difficulty is an connection with those organisations called multiple stores, which are unlikely to co-operate in any voluntary control of elevations, but if we can only have these advisory committees there would be a possibility of their falling into line. You want not only compulsion, but the backing up of architectural control by public opinion before voluntary control can be effective.

In the case of Canterbury, public opinion, led by the Dean and the late Lord Milner, and supported by the Mayor and City Surveyor, led to the formation of an Advisory Committee with excellent results, and a similar

course is being adopted at Winchester, Oxford and elsewhere.

Mr. F. H. MANSFORD [L.]: In the Birmingham Town Planning Scheme mentioned in Mr. Haywood's paper, there was a clause by which, if the Corporation vetoed an elevation and the architects wished to appeal, they had a right of appeal to the Ministry of Health. Had that ever occurred, and if so what had been the decision?

Mr. ALWYN LLOYD [F]: As far as I can make out from the paper, this clause in Birmingham has not yet been given effect to, or at any rate there have been no appeals arising.

Professor J. E. A. STEGGALL [Hon. A.]: I happen to live in a town, one of the beautiful cities of the Isle—Dundee—which has been absolutely spoiled, not by architects but by the conditions which have grown up. Since I have lived there, fifty years or so, there have been enormous developments, and a great many new buildings; but of course there is no committee to advise the Town Council, who are by no means always the best body to consult on these matters. We have sometimes had extremely forceful officials, primarily engineers, and secondarily architects, men of good position, who have had enormous power. It may be that I have not followed the paper sufficiently closely, but it seems to me there should be some kind—one does not wish to define it too exactly—of consultation about public and, if possible, private buildings. There is a great number of very beautiful private houses which have been built by different architects. On the other hand, public buildings almost universally are poor. I feel that the power and authority of an able controlling man would be very much better used if it was a matter of custom and habit that his decisions be submitted to or considered by some consultative committee, not necessarily with an arbitrary power. I hope and believe it would be possible to get the most remarkable development in the next twenty-five years, where so many buildings are being built if this kind of special committee were established in different districts.

The CHAIRMAN: I am rather inclined to think that at a meeting of this kind it would be better not to approve or disapprove these items and suggestions by Mr. Haywood. I think all matters of that kind require a lot of thought, and I do not think in an assembly like this, when you are met together not only for this purpose, but for recreation and the social amenities, that it would be wise to adopt these suggestions offhand. What I would, therefore, venture to say would be this, that we thank Mr. Haywood for his paper and do it by resolution, and then place these various suggestions before the Royal Institute for their consideration, and later on they could be affirmed or modified. I believe that would be probably the better way of going about it.

We suffer to-day from a great deal of ugliness, not only because of the ignorance of the laity but also, I am sorry to say, sometimes from the ignorance of the architect. There is no question about that at all. Supposing we had seventeen architects round this table with a set of plans, you would get as many different opinions as you would have people. That is what you want to get rid of. The principles of architecture do not alter; they have never altered all through the centuries, and when you had this great Minster, the Cathedral or the Manor House,

there was a tradition, an understanding amongst men. I mean, if I speak to an assembly like this I can imagine they are all thinking in like terms. That is why you have got your York, and your Chester and all these other places. And so that is what you want to create, as Mr. Kitson very well said, a sort of atmosphere and understanding. That is why for the last two years, and long before that, I have always been advocating that it is education that is required; and whilst you are spending your time—being patient in adversity—teaching your children the value of these things which surround us and are so necessary for our happiness, the trouble is what to do in the meantime. This paper has suggested some advisory method. Well, that may be a good thing—I am not quite sure about it in my own mind. Something must be done; there is no question about that. Here is this country being ruined. You can hardly go a mile, north, south, east or west, but you are in despair. I have suggested a good many times that it is up to every one of us, especially the young men with whom the future of our great art lies, by example in our own homes and surroundings, to help to make our buildings and our surroundings more beautiful. I want the young men and young women to believe that everything in their home should speak of beauty; it is not a matter of money at all; you can get a deal table, simple in itself, instead of these things you buy in the multiple shops. If you can only really believe and have faith to understand these things, they are what really matter. Take a place like Park Lane, which was practically all built by a builder who was not an architect in the sense of the word that we understand—nearly every one of those houses, built by a man called Horder, are really delightful to look at; they are really so simple, with their beautifully shaped bow windows. That is what we want to create here to-day.

The President then put the vote of thanks, which was carried by acclamation.

Mr. ALWYN LLOYD: I shall convey my own personal message to Mr. Haywood saying how well you received his paper to-day, and I should like to thank you very cordially for associating my name with the vote of thanks.

I agree thoroughly with what has been said as to not going too far ahead of public opinion, but I think we ought to be courageous—certain everywhere let us be guided by intelligent public opinion, but let us have courage to go ahead and break new ground. As to the form of these commissions, it seems to me that the most favourable way would be to start gradually as has been done in Bath, where on the whole the Local Authority and probably public opinion is more enlightened, and then gradually let us extend further to the whole country. I do not think we need be apologetic or necessarily afraid of the results which are already coming from these endeavours. With regard to the question of the multiple store, I agree entirely that this is one of the main difficulties. It is comparatively simple, I think, to deal with the alterations or the new buildings of local shops and businesses of that kind, because they are people whom one can meet and deal with. But with the multiple store which "pushes its nose in" from headquarters in London or Chicago, it is extremely difficult to get that type of person to understand what is required locally. It

is a question of taste and good manners in street architecture which should essentially govern these matters.

The following notes have been received from Mr. HAYWOOD, in reply to points raised in the discussion:—

I agree with Mr. Keen that "success lies more in preventing the wrong thing from being done, than in actually securing the right thing"; by which I understand him to mean, a diplomatic treatment of incompetent design, rather than interference with design of a fair standard.

Mr. Fletcher has reason to question the amount of voluntary work to be done when *all* designs are submitted to unpaid Advisory Committees. Yet by adopting a moderate standard of criticism, we can not only avoid unreasonable interference, but reduce to moderate proportions the number of submissions requiring more than formal approval.

I agree with Mr. Rees that *submission* should be compulsory for all. The compulsion I oppose is that of accepting the conclusions of the Local Authority or its Advisory Committee. With respect to variations made after approval, re-submission should not be required except where the changes made are such as to call for re-submission to the client also.

Mr. Morrison's reference to recent powers of control in Edinburgh is not quite clear to me, but appears to indicate a similarity in essentials with the powers granted under Clause 128 of the Bath Act, 1925. Several other speakers refer to the Bath method of procedure. Mr. Cart de Lafontaine says that the clause "is of great value because of its relationship with local authorities, and because there is a certain amount of compulsion." Mr. Edwards, on the other hand, says that it is "absolutely independent of the local authority," and as it is evident that the clause and its possibilities are still too little known, it is given in full at the end of these notes for reference purposes.*

The more the Bath Clause is considered, and its present reputation as a precedent taken into account, the more obvious it becomes that further progress towards any sort of influence over aesthetic expression in building must take sides for or against the kind of authority it defines. Many architects regard the Clause with favour, and at first glance it certainly appears to give architects security against evils which they have found particularly exasperating in recent years. Yet, it will be found on close inspection that sub-clause 3A permits the Corporation to approve any elevation it pleases without any reference whatever to the advisory committee, and that, even when referred to, this committee can only pass upon such details of the design in question as have been thought objectionable by a corporation and its officers.

If I am right in this interpretation, there can surely be no doubt that the interests of our profession are seriously menaced by this Clause and those which have been modelled upon it; from which I conclude that the most urgent matter before the Institute in respect to the "Control of Elevations" is a clear definition of policy towards such powers as are conferred by Clause 128 of the Bath Act, 1925.

* CLAUSE 128 OF THE BATH ACT 1925.

128.—1.—(a) For the purpose of assisting the Corporation in the exercise of the powers conferred upon them by this

section, a standing advisory committee of three members (in this section called "the advisory committee") shall be constituted for the city, of whom one member shall be a Fellow of the Royal Institute of British Architects to be nominated by the President of the said Institute, one member shall be a Fellow of the Surveyors' Institution, to be nominated by the President of the said Institution, and one member shall be a Justice of the Peace to be nominated by the council.

Provided that a member of the council shall be disqualified from being a member of the advisory committee.

(b) Subject as aforesaid, the members of the advisory committee shall be appointed by the council and any vacancy occurring on the advisory committee shall be filled by the council on the nomination of the person or body by whom the member causing the vacancy was nominated. The Corporation shall pay the members of the advisory committee such reasonable fees and expenses as the Corporation think fit;

(c) The advisory committee may determine any matter referred to them in such manner as they in their discretion shall think fit and they shall within one month after the receipt of the reference give their decision thereon and any such decision shall have effect as if it were an approval or disapproval (as the case may be) of the Corporation and in the latter case shall contain a statement of the grounds on which the decision is arrived at;

(d) Every such decision shall forthwith be reported to the Corporation and upon receipt thereof by the Corporation a copy shall forthwith be sent by the Corporation to the person or persons affected thereby;

(e) In the event of a division of opinion among the members of the advisory committee upon reference to them the matter shall be decided by a majority of votes of the members of the committee but save as aforesaid the advisory committee shall act by their whole number;

(f) The costs of any reference to the advisory committee shall be paid as the advisory committee may direct. Where such costs or part thereof shall be payable to any person other than the Corporation they shall be recoverable by that person and where such costs or part thereof shall be payable to the Corporation they shall be recoverable by the Corporation and in both cases summarily as a civil debt.

2. Section 157 (Power to make by-laws respecting new buildings, etc.) of the Public Health Act 1875 is hereby extended so as to enable the Corporation to make by-laws providing in such manner as they may think necessary for the deposit by a person intending to construct—

(a) a building within the city; or

(b) an addition to an existing building within the city (including the reconstruction of an existing addition to any such building); or

(c) a chimney exceeding forty-five feet from the ground in height;

of drawings of the elevations and particulars as to the materials of such building or addition or chimney (in this section called collectively "elevations").

3. Where elevations are required to be submitted to the Corporation by a by-law made under the said section 157 as extended by this section the Corporation shall within one month after the delivery of the elevations—

(a) approve the elevations; or

(b) if they shall consider that having regard to the general character of the buildings in the city or of the buildings proposed therein to be erected or of the building upon or to which the addition is to be constructed or reconstructed the building or addition or chimney to which the elevations relate would seriously disfigure the city whether by reason of the height of the building or addition or chimney or its design or the materials proposed to be used in its construction refer the question of the approval of the elevations to the advisory committee for

their decision thereon and the reference shall be accompanied by a statement of the grounds on which the proposed building or addition or chimney is considered to be objectionable.

4. The Corporation shall forthwith send notice in writing to the person by whom the elevations were deposited of their approval thereof or if the building or addition or chimney is considered to be objectionable on any of the grounds mentioned in this section of the reference of the elevations to the advisory committee and the notice shall be accompanied by a statement of the objections to the building or addition or chimney.

5. The person by whom the elevations were deposited shall be entitled to send to the advisory committee a statement of his answers to the objections of the Corporation and if he does so he shall at the same time send a copy thereof to the town clerk.

6. Where the elevations of a building or addition or chimney have been disapproved under this section it shall not be lawful to erect the building or addition or chimney until the elevations thereof have been approved by the Corporation and any person who acts in contravention of this section shall be liable to a penalty not exceeding five pounds and to a daily penalty not exceeding two pounds.

The Conference Banquet

THE Conference Banquet took place at the Assembly Rooms, York, on Friday, 14th June.

The Dean of York, Dr. LIONEL FORD, in proposing the toast of the Royal Institute of British Architects and its Allied Societies, coupled with the name of the President, Mr. Walter Tapper, A.R.A., said :—

Though I cannot pretend to be an architect or an artist, no man could have the privilege, which I have, of continuous association with York Minster and not pick up daily something of appreciation of the things of beauty in architecture and in music for which it stands. I know your President feels strongly, and you are all agreed, that the education of the rising generation in our schools should include an appreciation of art and architecture, and I should like most cordially to associate myself with that desire. Indeed, greatly daring, I was urging my old Harrow boys, only a few days ago, to form habits of enjoying music, and pictures, and architecture. If they would only believe it, they would find that it is very largely by cultivating the love of beautiful things, whether in Nature or art, of everything indeed that makes for beauty and truth and goodness, that there comes to them all at the end the inestimable benefit of a happy because cultivated mind. Not for us, perhaps, or most of us, the vision of the architect who builds his castles in the air, and afterwards sees them rise surely and perfectly from the ground; not for us the rapture of the musician who conceives those harmonies which open the doors of heaven, and to whom the structure of music he builds seems, as Browning calls it, the very Hand of God. But we can learn to appreciate, and I think it is a lesson that every one of us needs to learn, what is beautiful and lovely in the work of those who build for us our palaces of stone and of sound.

There is another thing about architects that I should like to say, which may surprise you: my experience is that they are an extraordinarily self-effacing race. I say self-effacing, because so far as I have read about architectural history, I always seem to find that the people to whom the credit is given for the building of great buildings, such as York Minster, are not the architects, but the Archbishops or other high-placed patrons in whose reign the building was planned or built. We take our visitors round the Minster, and we talk of Archbishop Walter de Grey or his successors far more than we talk of the predecessors of Walter Tapper. The great architects of to-day are very often forced to be content, like the flower of the poet, to blush unseen, and waste their sweetness on the desert air of cold appreciation and indiscriminating

criticism. But for all that I do humbly and gratefully appreciate more and more every day the wonderful work that you architects, the men of ideas and ideals, are doing, not only for the comfort and convenience of our daily life, but for the subtle beauty with which our surroundings can be enriched. It has been a constant inspiration to me in my close association of late years with Mr. Tapper to find how high a standard he upholds, of never erecting or sanctioning anything but the best in his creative work. This high conception of an architect's responsibility your President has always consistently maintained. And if, as I think, he is right, then surely there is no more important decision than any building committee can be called upon to make than the choice of the man who is to build the building, not only for time, but almost for eternity. In the scholastic world I have always held that the function of any governing body is to select the right man as headmaster, and then not to make too meticulous and careful examination into all the details of his administration, but to give him a free hand and allow him to do things according to his own mind. So, too, in the world of art, once you have selected your artist you must let him realise his own ideals, and not your own. Surely the true function of any electing body is to choose the right artist and then to trust his judgment in the working out of his ideals.

The PRESIDENT, in reply, said:

It is our great fortune to come to this ancient and famous city, and I need hardly tell you that it is a particular satisfaction to me that almost the last act of my Presidency will be discharged in the City of York. I came here on my first visit to the Minster in 1885. I came as assistant to my old and revered master, to whom I owe nearly everything, Mr. George Bodley, and from that day to the present time it has been my proud privilege to be associated with the care of that great and noble fabric. As the Dean said, when you have to deal day after day with such a great building, you would be lacking in all sense of beauty if you did not learn something.

I feel very sorry that we cannot be here longer; I believe it would be good for all of us; we are rather racing round quickly to see some of the beautiful areas of Yorkshire. If we architects could spend more time in studying what our forefathers have done for us, it would be all the better. I am sorry that there are not more of us here. I think that if the many thousands of members of the Royal Institute and the Allied Societies realised how delightful these Conferences can be, the attendance would be so great that our organisers, such as Mr. Syme and

Mr. Jackson, would be very much put to it to entertain us. I should like to say a word about those gentlemen. Most of you know that the York and East Yorkshire Society have organised this Conference, and since Wednesday they have acted really as our hosts. Now this Society draws its members chiefly from York and Hull. It is not very strong in numbers, but it makes up for that in keenness and real energy. I should, therefore, like to take this opportunity to thank all those gentlemen for the trouble taken over a great many months to make these arrangements run so pleasantly and smoothly. A great many of you know, but not all of you, that it really is not a matter of a few weeks, or a month or two; it requires months of work. It is six months ago that Mr. MacAlister began talking about this Conference, and they have been at it ever since. We are deeply indebted to Mr. Syme and Mr. Jackson, and all those gentlemen—if I had to mention them all by name it would take up the greater part of the time—who have done so well for us. They at all events have the satisfaction of knowing, and know it to-night, that the work has been really successful and we have enjoyed it very much.

The work of this Society ought to be better known. I should like to bring its qualifications more before the public and the Press, and should like them to know and appreciate, much more than they have done, all the work they do for the welfare of architects.

I have to thank you, my Lord Mayor, for kindly welcoming us to this delightful city, and the Dean of York for allowing us to make use of his charming gardens; the Hon. Geoffrey Howard, who allowed us to go to Castle Howard; and then again, I have to thank Professor Thompson, Mr. Peers, Mr. Louis Ambler, and Dr. Bilson for all those delightful tours to-day.

I wish to say one or two words to the citizens of York. This visit of ours is one of the many evidences which you constantly receive that your city is an object of reverent admiration from people all over the civilised world. You are indeed citizens of no mean city, and you are indeed the proud possessors of a great heritage. It is well, ladies and gentlemen, in these material days to remember that the citizens of York are the responsible guardians of something which was famous and beautiful centuries before you were born, and will be long after all of us in this room have passed away. Beauty and loveliness will always be revered, and there are times when these matters and these virtues of which I speak have to be considered before business and profit. It requires vision to know that these virtues have even that secondary aspect. At all events, it should be the proud duty of the citizens of York jealously to guard this great heritage and to hand it on to posterity with an added dignity. Yesterday afternoon I had the pleasure of doing a round of York, and what I want to say is this: that the value of York is in how much you are prepared to try and improve it in doing this, that, and the other. You have to have a standard—the standard that we know to-day of great buildings like York Minster. There is no other way of judging the value of modern architecture, and you do not need to go to your daughter in America to learn it; you have it at your own door; everywhere you go, Yorkshire, and also all over the country, you can learn everything that an architect needs to learn. To-day we

seem to misunderstand the whole position. We go to America, or Sweden or Spain, anywhere except our own country, and yet here you have the biggest things in Christendom. Yorkshire especially—just travel round your own county, and you will find plenty to give you that inspiration that is needed in this material world.

I have spoken of this great city of York, mainly because, like many other famous cities during the last century, it has been dispossessed of so much that is helpful to humanity. I dare say most of you have seen the old engravings of York. Mr. Harrison gave a brief lecture on Old York. Of the slides that he put up there was one showing that most delightful bridge that spans the river Ouse. There it was, noble in shape, with its beautiful arches, with a chapel at the end and lovely places all around it. It went, and those delightful buildings went with it, and you have put in its place—Walker's Repository!

You cannot pass through the streets of any great city or town in this country without realising how many people there are who are completely blind to the aspect of which I am speaking; they do not seem to have any outlook at all. It is because of this that some of the great industrial cities are so ugly. I was in Glasgow last week—not so great as it ought to be as the second city in the kingdom; it was nasty and vulgar—not an idea of cleanliness. That ought not to be in a civilised community. You ought to be able to keep a place clean, at all events. They are trying in London at the present time for steel bridges to be built over the river. The neighbourhood of Battersea, the National Gallery containing all those priceless possessions, are being ruined by vulgarity. It is extraordinary to-day, with all this enlightenment, and keenness about things—and I am really an optimist, because I do see the great things that are being done by individual architects—that these things are not being done as a whole. The nation is not thinking in high architectural terms, and the only thing to remedy this is education. It is not for the architects to teach the people; the nation gets what it demands. If the laity of this country really want decent homes to live in, if they want the country not to be defaced, they have got to say so, they have got to rise up and say 'we won't have it.' The people have to say definitely what they want; they want great buildings, and if they really want them they will get them if they create the demand. An architect can, after all, only do his level best, in the face of all this lack of knowledge and understanding. I am speaking of architecture universally. These things can only be done by the nation, and no section of the community can be blamed. It is the whole nation who must demand the education of which I speak. I want the children of the schools to be taught the standards of beauty as part of their general education, the things which are primarily essential to enable them to discriminate between the good and the bad, and which will create a desire for the good. I know it cannot be done in a moment. And meanwhile, what are we architects to do? All we can do, I really believe, is to keep a rush-light burning. We can, if we have vision and a great belief in our work, help the nation even in these days. If we emulate the spirit of our forefathers and believe that these noble buildings which we have the privilege of seeing, really matter, our work will be for the benefit of mankind and the uplifting of the human race.

Mr. G. DUDLEY HARBON (President of the York and East Yorkshire Architectural Society) replying on behalf of the Allied Societies, said :—

I am pleased to say that at the present moment the bond which unites the Allied Societies with the Royal Institute has never been closer or stronger than it is at the present moment. The Institute have in particular since the war done their utmost to make the provincial members realise that the society to which they belong is not merely a metropolitan organisation, but is national, and more than national—imperial.

This conference in York is a further evidence that the Institute's activities are not merely centred in London, and we here very much appreciate the honour that we have had during the last few days.

We are a small and rather widely separated body—this York and East Yorkshire Society; but what we lack in numbers we make up in brains. We have amongst our members born in this district two Soane Medallists and one Rome Scholar. I venture to say that is no small record for a small society, and if I went a little further I could add much more to the roll of honours of members of the York and East Yorkshire Architectural Society. But every one of the allied societies for whom I speak will doubtless be able to say that they number amongst their members some distinguished and eminent men—which goes to prove that the whole of the talent in this country is not centred in London. It may go there, because, of course, the best recognition is perhaps to be obtained there; but it is bred, I contend, in the country at large. London gets it, because, of course, London is the centre to which the whole world trends.

As a society, I was very pleased yesterday to hear the Lord Mayor say that York had accepted the suggestion which we made, that they should embody in the Town Planning Act the clause respecting the control of elevations.

In Hull—I am only sorry to say that the Lord Mayor is unable to be present, but we have the Sheriff here, and I am very glad to see him, and Sir Arthur Atkinson, who is here to-night—we have met with very sympathetic consideration, and are represented on the Advisory Committee of the Higher Education Committee of the City of Hull; and we hope through that body very largely to increase the facilities for architectural education in this neighbourhood.

Mr. J. STUART SYME, Past-President of the York and East Yorkshire Architectural Society, in proposing the toast of the City and Corporation of York, said :

I think it will be agreed that it was a very happy inspiration which led the Conference this year in the direction of York. Few cities have such delightful associations and attractions for the architect. Its river and walls, its narrow streets and glorious Minster combine to produce an impression that can scarcely be paralleled in this country. Some of us have had the opportunity of reviving memories of happy sketching holidays, spent many years ago when York was even more York than it is to-day. My own recollections do not, unfortunately, go back to the time when the Old Station within the walls was still in use, but I remember well, when I first crossed the border as a raw youth of some 16 years, the exhilarating experience of stopping at York Station for twenty

minutes for luncheon, while the South Express awaited our pleasure.

Familiarity with the sights of the city has robbed it of much of the glamour of those early days. Time has stolen the illusions of youth when one saw only the rosy side of architecture and knew nothing of its difficulties and responsibilities. The hand of time has, of course, fallen on the city, but there are fewer scars than one might have expected. Gaps are to be seen where the destroyer has swept away a building here and there and straightened out some of the tortuous streets, which are perhaps one of the greatest charms of an old-world town.

The march of progress and the conditions of modern life are fast robbing our great cities of much of their distinctive atmosphere. Paris and London approximate more and more closely to each other, and whatever superior attractions the former may claim are seriously discounted by the hordes of trippers in motor-coaches which throng the boulevards, and the touts who accost one at every third corner.

We must not, however, allow our thoughts to dwell too long in the past or we shall have no time to think of the present and the future.

As for the present, we find ourselves quartered in this ancient city as the representatives of one of the oldest professions that minister to the needs of mankind. Although we may not perhaps realise it, we are not assembled here solely for the purpose of enjoying ourselves in delightful surroundings and gathering inspiration from the monuments of the past. We wish the good citizens of York to have an opportunity of meeting distinguished representatives of our profession, to see what manner of men we be, to talk with us and learn something of our aspirations and our outlook on life. We wish them to see us face to face and to measure the force which is at once centred in and radiating from the Royal Institute and its Allied Societies. We desire to awaken their sympathies with those who wrestle with the demons of ugliness and unworthiness in art. Many good citizens who pass by the Minster every day of their lives do not realise that it has been produced by the same mental process as is applied to less important buildings, and that some measure of beauty can be attained and must be insisted on even in such a humble structure as a petrol-filling station. There is not the slightest excuse, as the President has said on more than one occasion, for unworthy architecture in any city, and in none is it more out of place than in York. The ultimate responsibility for the perpetration of architectural crimes rests with the citizen. Does he value good design? Then let him seek it and he will get it. If he does not, then let him frankly declare that he has no use for the beauties of the Minster and the charms of our old houses and let us be done with all hypocrisy and lip-service to art. These are not idle words, as can be testified in the streets of York and any other great city, where even to-day buildings are being erected which, to put it very mildly, cannot fail to make the judicious grieve. As the public learns more of us we may hope that it will be more ready, individually and collectively, to give us that co-operation without which the tyranny of ugliness will never be overcome.

It can assist us, for one thing, by helping to eliminate the

quack architect, to whose charge many of the enormities of which we complain can be laid. It has watched with equanimity the clipping of the claws of the quack, in medicine, law, dentistry, and other spheres of service, but the claims of architecture to protection have, so far, met with little or no approving response.

As to the future, just a few words. Development of the city must, of course, proceed, but the task of its guardians in the future must be to see that its heritage of ancient buildings shall not suffer in the process, but rather be embellished by a setting more worthy of their beauty.

In coupling with this toast the name of the Lord Mayor, with which should be associated that of the Lady Mayoress, the Sheriff and the Sheriff's Lady, we show our desire to express our gratitude to them for the kindly interest they have shown in the Conference, and for thanks for the honour they have conferred on it by their presence here to-night, and on the other occasions on which we have had the pleasure of their company.

The Lord Mayor of York (Councillor E. J. L. RYMER) in responding to the Toast of the City and Corporation, said :

We try as a Corporation to make our city attractive and preserve the old customs and old buildings. It is not a new city and it has to meet the modern needs of traffic, which is one of our difficulties. Our powers are very limited, and we do not always succeed because we have no power to enforce our wishes ; but we have succeeded in many instances in inducing builders, when they have brought their plans, to alter them, and though the public do not know of it, we have succeeded in a very great many cases in making great improvements in proposed buildings. But, unfortunately, there are some people who do not want advice about their buildings, and they won't listen to us. There is one instance of the desire to build appropriate buildings in the case of Martin's Bank, in Coney Street, which only a few years ago was rebuilt. They were going to build a modern building. We remonstrated with them and they were very courteous, and eventually built the new building on the old lines. In Jubbergate, a very old building almost falling to pieces, was rebuilt by the landlord, and, as showing his public spirit, he tried as far as possible to build it on the old lines. Certainly the building has kept its very old character, and now it is one of the sights of the city. Those of you who have been in the Pavement know the building which used to be Sir Thomas Herbert's house, which three years ago was rebuilt by the National Farmers' Union. They have kept the old characteristics of the place, and now it is quite a show place and a credit to the city. We have recently pulled down Harker's Hotel. We have a big vision in other things, but what they are going to build there I have not been able to find out. We as a Corporation are anxious that an appropriate building shall be put up in that central site.

We welcome any suggestions from your experience which you can give in helping us to maintain the character of the old city. Our actions are often criticised—people like to criticise a Corporation, and we get more kicks than ha'pence ; but through it all we try to do our best for the city.

Mr. SYDNEY D. KITSON (Honorary Secretary of the

Royal Institute) proposed "Our Guests" and said: I wish I could mention all our guests by name, but that is obviously quite impossible. In the City of York one thinks first of all of the Minster, and we have its guardian here to-night. We as architects feel that the Dean of York is in scale, both physically and mentally, with the Minster which he serves, and we know that with the help of Providence—and our President—he will never admit anything into the Minster which will be unworthy of it.

York also is a great military centre. Those of us who served in the Northern Command during the war know with what awe the name of the General Officer Commanding the Northern Command was mentioned. We never saw him—he was much too great a man ; but in these happier and more peaceful days I am glad to know that Lieut.-General Sir Cameron Shute, who is with us to-night, is occasionally able to spare an hour from his military duties in order to study architects in their festal moments.

We have here the Lord Mayor of York, to whose speech we have just listened with interest and approval. Then the presence of the Mayor of Scarborough and of the Sheriff of Hull reminds us of the wide area which the Allied Society serves—an area which encloses some of the fairest and most unspoiled prospects in England. We to-day have gone forth in four parties to visit some parts of this enchanted land ; and those of us who were privileged to be at Rievaulx Abbey this morning felt that there was present the same spiritual beauty as that which dwells upon the Acropolis at Athens.

We have with us also two representatives of Yorkshire county families—Sir William Worsley and Mr. Geoffrey Howard : both of them owners of great Yorkshire country houses, which they have to-day generously thrown open to the members of the Conference.

York is full of monuments of the Middle Ages, and that well-known archæologist, Dr. Maud Sellers, is our guest to-night. She has given up her life to the unselfish care and preservation of that fine fourteenth-century building, the Merchant Adventurers' Hall, a work in which she has been enthusiastically supported by the Brethren of the Merchant Adventurers' Company.

We have, too, Professor Hamilton Thompson ; and what am I to say of him, who is himself the master of many words ? I will only say this : that, having taken the whole of mediæval learning as his province, he has reserved his affections for mediæval architecture. Mr. C. R. Peers, the President of the Society of Antiquaries and the Chief Inspector of Ancient Monuments, is seated inconspicuously on my right. Some six months ago Mr. Peers was elected by acclamation a Fellow of the Royal Institute of British Architects, in recognition of the wonderful work which he has done throughout the country in the preservation of our mediæval buildings. Four months later he was elected—the first architect to occupy that position—President of the Society of Antiquaries.

We also have with us Sir Arthur Atkinson, the President of the Hull Chamber of Commerce ; Mr. Padgett, the President of the Hull Building Trades Employers' Association, and Mr. Hodsman, the President of the York Master Builders' Society. Then, too, there is Mr. Councillor Dodsworth, whose work as Chairman of the York House Committee I should very much like to commend.

Besides these corporeal guests we have, as it seems to me, some ghostly guests present with us to-night—men of the past who have advanced the art of architecture in York and Yorkshire. Over these I seem to see the ghost of Lord Burlington, looking somewhat querulously at the later decoration of this many-pillared hall of his. Surrounding him a group of other ghosts faintly appears. They seem to carry tee-squares. It may be that amateur architect ghosts have professional architect ghosts around them; but this is a matter upon which Sir Reginald Blomfield is better qualified to speak than I am. Over there I see a very human figure, with weather-stained face, white wig and blue coat with brass buttons, buff waistcoat and white leather breeches. He is the worthy alderman, John Carr of York, and he looks as though he would

gladly join us in our banquet. In front of me I see another figure, that of Walter Brierley, a giant among men, who spent his life in designing and carrying out comely work in York and throughout the county.

I am going to couple this toast with two names, and I will ask you to drink the health of our guests, coupled with the names of Lieut.-General Sir Cameron Shute, General Officer Commanding Northern Command, and of Dr. Walter Collinge, Secretary of the Yorkshire Philosophical Society.

Lieut.-General SIR CAMERON SHUTE, K.C.B., K.C.M.G., General Officer Commanding Northern Command, York, and Dr. WALTER COLLINGE, Secretary of the Yorkshire Philosophical Society, replied for the Guests.

The following is a list of the company present at the Banquet:—

The President, Mr. WALTER TAPPER, A.R.A., F.S.A., in the chair.

The Rt. Hon. The Lord Mayor of York; The Lady Mayoress of York; Mrs. Walter Tapper; The Very Rev. The Dean of York; Capt. The Hon. Geoffrey W. A. Howard, J.P.; Lt.-Gen. Sir Cameron D. Shute, K.C.B., K.C.M.G. (G.O.C. Northern Command); Sir Benjamin Dawson, Bart.; Sir William H. A. Worsley, Bart., D.L., J.P.; Sir Banister Fletcher, F.S.A. (President Elect R.I.B.A.); Lady Banister Fletcher; Mr. Sheriff E. A. Birks; Mrs. W. Cyril Birks; Mr. Sheriff T. Ritchie Rodger, M.D.; Mrs. Ritchie Rodger; Major Sir Arthur Atkinson, M.B.E., J.P. (President, Hull Chamber of Commerce); Lady Atkinson; His Worship The Mayor of Scarborough; The Ven. Archdeacon Cooper; Brig.-Gen. H. R. Mends, C.B. (President, York Arts Society); Principal A. E. Morgan; Mrs. A. E. Morgan; Professor Hamilton Thompson, M.A., D.Litt., F.S.A., Hon. A.R.I.B.A.; Dr. Walter E. Collinge, F.S.A. (Secretary, Yorkshire Philosophical Society); Dr. Maud Sellers; The Rev. Angelo Raine, B.A.; The Rev. Edmund Hope, M.A.; Mr. E. H. J. Chambers, LL.B. (President, Hull Literary and Philosophical Society); Mr. Councillor B. Dodsworth (Chairman, York Housing Committee); Mr. H. L. Swift; Dr. W. A. Evelyn (Secretary, York Architectural and Archaeological Society); Mr. Priestley Cooper (President, Hull Incorporated Law Society); Mr. W. Gilbert Padgett (President, Hull Building Trades Employers' Association); Mr. Beedham Hodsman (President, York Master Builders' Association); Mr. Reginald T. Cotterill, A.R.C.A. (Principal, School of Arts and Crafts, York); Mr. J. J. Brownword, A.R.C.A. (Principal, Hull Municipal School of Art); Mr. Chas. D. Le Maistre, C.B.E. (Director, British Engineering Standards Association); Mr. John Miller (Chief Engineer, L.N.E.R.); Mr. C. J. Bex; Mr. W. I. Croome; Mr. W. R. Willis, F.R.H.S.; Mr. George Benson; Mr. T. P. Cooper; Mr. Ian MacAlister, M.A. (Secretary, R.I.B.A.); Mrs. Ian MacAlister.

Mr. Frank Abbey; Mr. Percy H. Adams; Mr. J. G. Ambrose; Mrs. J. G. Ambrose; Mr. Louis Ambler, F.S.A.; Mr. W. H. Ansell, M.C. (President, The Architectural Association); *Architect and Building News*.

Captain Victor Bain; Mrs. Victor Bain; Mr. H. G. Baker; Mrs. H. G. Baker; Mr. F. G. Baker; Mr. Christian Barman; Mr. W. E. Biscomb; Mrs. W. E. Biscomb; Mr. E. L. Bird; Mr. H. E. Bloor; Mr. Walter Brand (President, Leicester and Leicestershire Society of Architects); Mrs. Walter Brand; Mr. Chas. H. E. Brigand; Mr. Ernest H. Buckingham.

Mr. A. Lorne Campbell; Lt.-Col. H. P. Cart de Lafontaine, O.B.E., T.D.; *Central News, Ltd.*; Mr. G. E. Charlewood;

Mr. L. H. Clarke; Mr. Alfred Cowman; Mr. T. Talfourd Cumming; Mrs. Talfourd Cumming.

Mr. Harold A. Dod, M.A.; Mrs. Harold Dod; Mr. L. L. Dussault; Mr. Fredk. Dyer.

Mr. R. A. Easdale; Mr. F. C. Eden, M.A., F.S.A.; Mr. F. E. Pearce Edwards; Mrs. F. E. Pearce Edwards.

Mr. H. M. Fletcher, M.A.; Mrs. H. M. Fletcher; Mr. R. C. Foster; Mrs. R. C. Foster; Mr. G. H. Foggitt, A.R.C.A. (President, West Yorkshire Architectural Society).

Mr. H. B. S. Gibbs; Mr. W. F. Gibson; Mrs. W. F. Gibson; Mr. G. H. Gray; Mr. G. Hastwell Grayson; Mrs. Hastwell Grayson; Lt.-Col. G. R. Griffith; Mrs. G. R. Griffith.

Mr. Arthur Harrison; Mr. G. Dudley Harbron (President, York and East Yorkshire Architectural Society); Mrs. G. Dudley Harbron; Miss S. Harbron; Mr. H. de C. Hastings; Mr. H. E. Hill; Mr. Richard Holt; Mrs. Richard Holt; Mr. Harry Hutt (President, Berks, Bucks and Oxon Architectural Association); Mrs. Harry Hutt; Mr. Gerald Hughes; Mr. B. S. Hume; *Hull Daily Mail*.

Mr. A. Linton Iredale.

Mr. Reginald Jackson; Mr. Eric R. Jarrett; Mr. Francis Jones; Mrs. Francis Jones.

Mr. Arthur Keen; Mrs. Arthur Keen; Mr. John Keppie, A.R.S.A.; Miss Jessie Keppie; Mr. Llewellyn Kitchen; Mr. Sydney D. Kitson, M.A., F.S.A. (Hon. Secretary, R.I.B.A.); Mrs. Sydney Kitson; Mr. John A. Knowles, F.S.A.

Mr. C. Leckenby; Mrs. C. Leckenby; Mr. T. Alwyn Lloyd (President, South Wales Institute of Architects); Mr. R. T. Longden; Mrs. R. T. Longden; Miss M. R. Longden.

Mr. C. S. Madeley; Mr. R. Norman Mackellar; Miss E. M. Mallinson; Mr. J. H. Martindale, F.S.A. (President, Northern Architectural Association); Mrs. J. H. Martindale; Mr. C. B. Mathews; Mrs. C. B. Mathews; Mr. T. R. Milburn; Mrs. T. R. Milburn; Mrs. John Miller; Mr. J. Inch Morrison; Mrs. J. Inch Morrison.

Mr. C. W. C. Needham; Mrs. C. W. C. Needham; Mr. Wm. A. Nelson.

Mr. Charles Oliver; Mrs. Charles Oliver.

Mr. H. Payne; Mr. C. R. Peers; Mr. F. J. Penty; Mr. E. A. Pollard; Mrs. E. A. Pollard; *Press Association*; Mr. E. Priestley-Cooper; Mrs. Priestley-Cooper.

Mr. T. Taliesin Rees, J.P.; Mrs. T. Taliesin Rees; Lt.-Col. George Reavell, O.B.E.; Miss Reavell; Professor A. E. Richardson; Mrs. A. E. Richardson; Miss Richardson; Mr. J. Hervey Rutherford; Mrs. J. Hervey Rutherford.

Mr. Thomas E. Scott; Mr. B. Priestley Shires; Mr. J. Arthur Smith (President, Hampshire and Isle of Wight Architectural Association); Mrs. J. Arthur Smith; Capt. W. Ward Smith; Prof. J. E. A. Steggall, M.A., F.S.A., Hon. A.R.I.B.A.; Mr. J.

Stuart Syme (Past President, York and East Yorkshire Architectural Society); Mrs. J. Stuart Syme; Mr. Charles Sykes.

Mr. A. K. Tasker; Mr. J. C. Amory Teather; Mr. Percy E. Thomas, O.B.E.; Mrs. Percy E. Thomas; Mr. A. Newton Thorpe; *The Times*; Mr. Frank Tranmer; Mr. Laurence A. Turner, F.S.A., Hon. A.R.I.B.A.

Mr. John Vause; Mrs. John Vause; Mr. H. J. Venning;

Miss Joan Venning; Mr. T. H. H. Vowles; Mrs. T. H. H. Vowles.

Mr. Kenneth Ward; Mrs. Kenneth Ward; Mr. W. E. Watson; Mr. T. Butler Wilson; Mr. W. L. Wood; Dr. Percy S. Worthington, M.A. D.Litt.; Mr. Raymond C. Wrinch; Mrs. Raymond Wrinch.

Mr. T. C. Yates; *The Yorkshire Herald*.

Notes on Visits

THURSDAY, 13 JUNE 1929

THE MINSTER AND ST. WILLIAM'S COLLEGE.

VISIT A.

Eighty-two members of the Conference took part in the visit to the Minster and St. William's College. Mr. Walter Tapper, A.R.A., Professor Hamilton Thompson and the Rev. F. Harrison acted as guides to the Minster.

THE GUILDHALL, MANSION HOUSE, ST. MARTIN'S CHURCH, MERCHANT ADVENTURERS' HALL, SHAMBLES.

VISIT B.

Those members of the Conference and their ladies who decided to spend the Thursday afternoon in seeing some of the ancient secular buildings in the city spent a very enjoyable time in viewing the Guildhall, Mansion House, Merchant Adventurers' Hall and other places; many old streets were traversed and buildings of interest were commented on in passing.

The Guildhall, a fine mediæval building of spacious dimensions, unlike most municipal halls is kept clear of chairs and the usual appurtenances. In consequence of this, one carried away a clear open impression of the good proportions of the Hall with its open timber roof resting on wooden columns, which is another unusual feature in the Guildhall.

The Mansion House, which adjoins the Guildhall, is a late Georgian building, and is used as the Lord Mayor's residence during his term of office. There is evidence of this in the modern furniture and decorations, much of which is out of harmony with the character of the house! The party was shown the famous collection of Corporation plate and the ancient chains of office worn by the Lord Mayor and Sheriffs, also the portraits of York worthies which adorn the walls of the assembly room.

The Merchant Adventurers' Hall, standing between Fossgate and Piccadilly, is one of the few surviving trade halls, and it was the headquarters in the old days of the Yorkshire woollen trade. Begun in the fourteenth century, the buildings consist of an undercroft, containing a row of stout oak pillars in the centre, with a small chapel; there is a large hall above, and outside there is a fine gabled house. At the back there is now a well laid-out formal garden for the use of the old folks in the district, the site of which was until recently a refuse tip. The restoration and maintenance of the Merchant Adventurers' Hall is largely due to the energetic work of Dr. Maud Sellers. Under the guidance of a local architect, whose knowledge of old work must have been considerable, the unsightly partitions in the hall were removed, and the great oak roof repaired, the buildings generally being restored to their mediæval aspect. Dr. Sellers very kindly showed the party round and gave a lively description of the work, which has been done so well under many difficulties.

The old streets in the city which came in for special comment were Stone-Gate, Pavement, Shambles and Davey-Gate. It was encouraging to note the number of new shop fronts which have been carried out in sympathy with their surroundings,

and the use of bright blue, green, orange and white paint bore testimony to the possibilities of brighter shopping streets.

Those who took part in these visits are much indebted to Mr. T. P. Cooper, the leader, whose intimate local knowledge of old York was placed so freely at the disposal of the party. T. A. LL.

ALL SAINTS' CHURCH, QUEEN'S HOTEL, CUMBERLAND HOUSE, ST. GEORGE'S HALL, ALL SAINTS' PAVEMENT, SHAMBLES.

VISIT C.

Only thirteen members elected to visit All Saints' Church, All Saints' Pavement, and the Shambles. Mr. Kenneth Ward acted as leader.

TREASURER'S HOUSE AND GRAY'S COURT, ST. WILLIAM'S COLLEGE, KING'S MANOR.

VISIT D.

About 60 members of the Conference took part in this visit, for which permission was kindly granted by Mr. Frank Green and Mrs. Edwin Gray. Although now in separate ownerships, the buildings form a single structural entity, the origin of which is to be looked for in the residence erected on the site for the Treasurer of the Minster, whose office was created by Thomas of Bayeux, the first Norman Archbishop of York.

The structure has been greatly changed since it lost its ecclesiastical status after the Reformation, but each alteration up to the addition of the drawing-room in Gray's Court by Dr. Jacques Sterne about the middle of the eighteenth century has added something of interest.

The building was first divided in 1720, and the portion known as Gray's Court passed about 1788 into the hands of the Gray family, with whom it still remains. The rest of the building was purchased in 1897-98 by Mr. Frank Green, by whom it was most judiciously renovated about the year 1900, at which time Gray's Court was also reconditioned, both operations being in the able hands of the late Temple Moore.

The inspection of the buildings and the fascinating collection of furniture which they contain was greatly enjoyed and the visit was rendered specially agreeable by the kind reception of the visitors by Mrs. Edwin Gray, who herself showed the party round Gray's Court.

After leaving Treasurer's House the party paid a visit of inspection to St. William's College, of which a brief description was given by the resident custodian.

The foundation dates from 1461, and was for the use of the Chantry Priests of the Cathedral, which purpose it served until the property came into secular hands at the Reformation. After passing through a period of neglect it was admirably restored in the first decade of this century by the late Temple Moore.

Apart from its picturesque qualities its chief interest lies in the staircase with its attractive old balusters and newels, and the open timber roofs of the halls on the upper floor, which are fine examples of mediæval carpentry.

The party then proceeded to the King's Manor (now the Wilberforce School for the Blind) where they were received and shown over the premises by the Rev. C. F. Hardy, the Principal of the School. He indicated and described the work of the various periods, viz., Abbot Sevyer (pre-Reformation), Huntingdon, Sheffield and Strafford, and made reference

to the works of restoration recently carried out, in which great care has been exercised to maintain the amenities of the old work.

The Masters House erected some years ago to the right of the entrance forecourt is an interesting example of the work of the late Walter Brierley. J. S. S.

Notes on the Motor Coach Tours

FRIDAY, 14 JUNE

NEWBALD, BEVERLEY, ST. MARY'S, BEVERLEY MINSTER.

TOUR No. 1.

A visit to the Minster and St. Mary's Church at Beverley is always a delightful experience, and the members of the Conference who viewed them under the guidance of Dr. John Bilson enjoyed an exceptional opportunity of studying their many charms. Dr. Bilson is the leading authority on the structure, and his explanatory remarks were lucid and well chosen, and admirably illustrated by the large scale plans prepared by himself, which he displayed for the edification of the visitors.

Previous to visiting Beverley the party inspected Newbald Church, also under Dr. Bilson's guidance. The building is of the Norman or Early Transitional period, and exceptional in its size and its cruciform plan. A feature of special interest is the south doorway with a vesica recess above it containing an interesting figure, of which the head has been restored. The carving of the capitals and archivolt of the doorway is worth special notice.

J. S. S.

RIPON CATHEDRAL, FOUNTAINS ABBEY.

TOUR No. 2.

About 30 of the party elected to join the excursion to Ripon with Fountains, and the 24 miles road out of York took us through an unspoilt countryside. Professor Hamilton Thompson who kindly acted as guide proved himself a mine of information and held us interested the whole day with his omniscient antiquarian knowledge and that without reference to notes. His eloquence enabled us to enter into the spirit which prompted the erection of the magnificent Gothic churches.

A monastery was founded at Ripon A.D. 657 but a small crypt about 10 by 8 alone remains of St. Wilfred's Church. We learn that for its building he brought over Italian masons, the Saxon churches of that time being of wood and thatch. This crypt is under the nave floor as at Hexham.

The collegiate church was built by Archbishop Roger (1154-1181) a remarkable example of the transition from Romanesque to Gothic architecture, for many evidences of the former period have not been obliterated by successive builders. The western towers with their romanque buttresses were added about 1234. The Early English builders have preserved two bays of Roger's nave and have incorporated them into the Western towers. The perpendicular nave builders have also conserved them. These two bays together with another transitional bay at the east end make it possible to conjecture the aisleless nave of Roger's church. The wall was plain for 16 ft. high above ground, an arcaded passage way occupied the next 28 feet in height and there are no windows except in the alternate bays of the clerestory.

The small abbey church of Nun Monkton, which some of us visited on Saturday, was reminiscent of this transition except that the arcaded passage and clerestory are there combined.

Among many interesting points at Ripon are the partial execution of perpendicular casing to strengthen the central

tower piers, the variation in the bays of the choir, the elegant fifteenth century choir stalls and the stone rood-screen.

After lunch a short journey carried us to Fountains Abbey, we had to be content with a passing glance at Fountains Hall which was under repair. The abbey situated in a picturesque valley of the Skell rivals Tintern and Rievaulx in the extent and preservation of its buildings, and has been fortunate in being maintained by its noble owner in excellent order.

It possesses the distinctive features of a Norman abbey of the Cistercian order, viz., short transepts with chapels projecting from east wall on both sides of church; rectangular chapter house; a western porch or narthex, also a short choir so that the stalls of the monks projected a certain distance down the nave. The chapel of the nine altars was added eastward of the choir in the thirteenth century. Loath to leave the picturesque spot, a short walk along the banks of the river brought us to our rendezvous for tea and a ride home through Knaresborough. T. C. A.

RIEVAULX ABBEY, HELMSLEY CASTLE, BYLAND ABBEY.

TOUR No. 3.

York is an excellent centre for architects to foregather. Buildings of interest are scattered freely amongst the delightful Yorkshire dales within a few miles of the city, and in these days of easy transport one's difficulty is rather which to leave out than which to choose.

If Rievaulx and Byland were the only two buildings of interest in the district, and if there was no Yorkshire scenery other than the few acres in their immediate vicinity, these two buildings would completely justify the holding of an Architects' Conference in York. Of course, those who went to Fountains could say the same, and those who went to Castle Howard did say it, and they would be and were, all right, but we who chose Rievaulx and Byland were "super right." As might be expected, the "super rights" were a small party, but they had the honour of counting the President and Mr. Peers, His Majesty's Inspector of Ancient Monuments, amongst their number, and I was there, too. To visit these Cistercian abbeys alone is good, but to visit them in the company of Mr. Peers is great.

The weather, too, was perfect. We had great rolling clouds; we had brilliant sunshine; we even had rain—that rare and priceless gift of nature which is most priceless when it descends at convenient times, as, indeed, it did on this great occasion—a few drops at Rievaulx to illustrate the various conditions under which the monks lived, and a deluge when we were all safely housed in covered cars on our way home to justify the luxury of a bath before the banquet.

First Rievaulx. What can one say of Rievaulx and not feel ashamed of one's feeble mode of expression! We walk through the cottage garden of the curator and behold—we all put our pipes out and throw away our cigarettes; all except the Honorary Secretary, who was too thrilled to remember to do so. Mr. Peers tells us all about it; about the six hundred monks who used to live there; how glad we felt that they had

gone and left the perfect peace that reigns there now, the beautiful, smooth mown grass, on which all the plan of the buildings is clearly shown, the piers of the nave, the cloister court, the lay brothers' quarters, the chapter house, the incomparable choir! Mr. Kitson described it as the "Parthenon of Gothic." A very fitting description; I wish I could claim it as mine. We see the tannery and learn that even great authorities may mistake a tannery for a bath. We sit on bits of wall, gaze at the detail, and listen to Mr. Peers' charming and lucid description of the Abbey and its history. We feel a spirit of content descend upon us, the world is good and we are glad to be alive.

So also at Byland. At first one feels Byland disappoints after the perfection of Rievaulx, but somehow it grows on one—whatever that may mean. Anyhow, nobody wanted to go when the time came for us to do so, and again we revelled in hearing Mr. Peers. Could the building really have been as fine when it was complete, when it was covered with white-wash and jointed with red lines, and the mouldings of the caps picked out in ochre? One wonders. On the whole, I think it is better to see it in its natural colour under the blue sky as it is to-day. Yet one does not thirst to see York or Westminster in a similar condition. I am getting involved, I had better stop.

We went to Helmsley Castle, too, and climbed down to see the great wall overlooking the valley beyond. Mr. Peers knows every stone here as well, and tells us much of interest.

We had lunch at the Old Swan at Helmsley, and tea at Coxswold, where we were shown Shandy Hall.

I could have written a much better description of the abbeys, only I have mislaid Mr. Peers' booklets on them. You will have to read them yourselves.

"ASSINUS."

GILLING CASTLE, HOVINGHAM HALL, CASTLE HOWARD.

TOUR No. 4.

The motor coach tour to Gilling Castle, Hovingham Hall and Castle Howard attracted the largest number of people, about 85 taking part in it, many of them going in private cars. The weather was dull at first, but there were alternations of sunshine and showers later on in the day.

In some respects Gilling Castle, with its fourteenth century, Elizabethan and Queen Anne (by Vanbrugh and Wakefield) wings, was the most interesting, although it was unoccupied and only partly furnished, but it was a great relief to find that the "great chamber," with its original and beautiful oak and inlaid panelling, chimney-piece, painted frieze and heraldic stained glass of 1585 and 1595, remained intact, the attempted sale of these by auction a few weeks previously having been unsuccessful.

Hovingham Hall, built by Thomas Worsley, Surveyor-General of Works, from his own designs between 1750 and 1760, is entered from the road through a riding school attached to the house, an unusual, if not unique, arrangement, and leading to three vaulted columned halls and one wing

containing some charming rooms on two floors, well furnished and decorated, mostly with a columnar treatment, and making altogether a delightful house. The south wing was never built, although intended. Sir William Worsley, the owner, was engaged elsewhere, but his daughter-in-law, the wife of the Yorkshire cricket captain, accompanied the party round and pointed out many of the interesting objects.

Sir Banister and Lady Fletcher joined us at lunch at Malton, and from there we drove to Castle Howard, where the owner, the Hon. Geoffrey Howard, met us outside and very kindly showed us over his truly magnificent palace built by his ancestor, the third Earl of Carlisle, in 1701 to 1737, from designs by Vanbrugh, assisted by Hawksmoor, the west wing, containing the long gallery and elaborate chapel, having been designed by Sir Thomas Robinson and built in 1750-60 by the fourth Earl. There was not time to visit the temple (by Vanbrugh) and the Mausoleum (by Hawksmoor) before tea, generously provided by Mr. Howard, and we had to be content with seeing the garden and the fountain playing, but it was a most pleasant and enjoyable visit, and full of interest.

The weather was too unfavourable and the time too short for inspecting the ruins of Sheriff-Hutton Castle, on the way back to York.

L. A.

SATURDAY, 15 JUNE.

NUN MONKTON CHURCH AND PRIORY.

Some confusion may arise from the fact that Nun Monkton Priory is the name now applied particularly to the old Manor House which adjoins the Church, and is now the property of Captain C. W. Whitworth.

Of the house, little information is available, but it may be assumed to have been erected on the site of some of the priory buildings. It has undergone alteration at different times, but the principal structural work appears to date from about the middle of the eighteenth century. After suffering neglect it has recently been restored by the present owner, who purchased it a few years ago.

A party of some 20 members of the Conference were most hospitably received by Captain and Mrs. Whitworth, and shown over the building by the architect who has been charged with the recent operations.

A visit was also made to the Priory Church, where the party was welcomed by the Vicar, the Rev. F. J. Southam. This visit, like the other, proved very enjoyable and interesting, and the journey by motor launch was voted an agreeable method of transport. A good description of the Priory Church is to be found in the Conference handbook.

J. S. S.

A most excellent handbook of the Conference was issued by the York and East Yorkshire Society, containing contributions by Dr. Maud Sellers, Mr. C. R. Peers, Professor Hamilton Thompson, Dr. John Bilson and Mr. Louis Ambler.

Impressions of the Conference

By PROFESSOR A. E. RICHARDSON [F.], F.S.A.

I WILL begin by saying how much the Conference was appreciated by everybody. Architects by nature do not favour foregatherings. They are all so busy planning for the convenience of multitudes, that they are singularly averse to crowding with their colleagues. The recent meeting at York must be thought an exception proving the rule. Thanks to admirable organisation, the visit was an unqualified success. In a busy professional life we are apt to view things in a limited fashion: we are surprised to find that our pet opinions never work out quite as we desire. The value of meeting others and interchanging views is therefore most useful. Then it is that we are encouraged to discuss with moderation the beliefs of youth and to relate new thought to contentious opinion.

A conference teaches us to plead for the preservation of beauty and not to despise legitimate adventure. In these days thought changes with great rapidity. We all share in the change. We cling hard to the glamour of the past, but it is beyond our power to put the clock back. The older we get the better we are fitted to see all round the peculiar issues of the moment. It is pleasant to find old friends retaining youthful enthusiasm and to know that past experience still counts for something. These conferences have slight faults—they are too infrequent, and they are not so fully attended as they might be. One looked around for familiar and respected faces, for those who were famous when most of us were younger. We were expectant of a bevy of youthful architects to leaven the stateliness. There was sympathy enough, and all the thought of mutual assistance to unite. The lure of the arts is greater than commonplace trivialities; the pity is that most of us fight shy of social intercourse.

If there is one city in England that Londoners envy, that place is York. The name itself has a magical sound, the roads that lead to the walled stronghold are those formed by the Legion. The great minster ranks as one of the proudest monuments created by mediæval thought. The narrow streets, the grim gates, and the warm sprinkling of brickwork combine to present a magnificent record of the rise of the nation from youth to maturity.

"York for my money," wrote Taylor the water poet,

and it would be a heavy heart that did not respond to the opportunity to get busy with a sketch book.

I think that when our President decided that the conference should be held under the shadow of the cathedral he acted wisely. Here we found a background suited for fancy to weave and devise; a strange commingling of the fantastic and the beautiful. We gathered inspiration, we talked over other visits, we compared experiences; we admired the careful reparation of ancient buildings, such as the King's Manor, and we listened to the sage advice of lecturers. The conference stressed the necessity for conserving the national heritage, but the speakers did not ignore the claims of the present. Education was discussed as well as the need for enlightening the public on the difficulties of architecture.

I do not propose to report the gist of the speeches or to give the names of those who urged particular views. It is my intention, on the other hand, to praise the spirit which prompted these speeches. We all felt that the old beauty held out a message to those depressed by the drab æsthetic surroundings of other places. I think I am speaking for my friends when I write that the visits to places of interest beyond the walls of the city were found equally exciting. Who among the gathering was not impressed by the works of repair undertaken by His Majesty's Office of Works? How astonished we were to find the countryside beyond the city practically unaffected by roadside development. Tribute is indeed due to the architects of York who have laboured to continue the local traditions. Few will forget the genial discourse of Mr. Kitson and his command over the ghosts of the old architects. As we listened so the ancients stepped from between the columns of the Assembly Rooms. We liked the undemonstrative manner in which the speaker called up the past. He envisioned the old architects as men with a grand air, proud in the thought that the majority of their works were still standing. It was a moment for congratulation that we too belonged to the same profession.

Saturday morning came all too soon, but excursions to fair gardens and noble mansions were still being arranged for those who elected to stay. A few miles out on the road to Doncaster I halted to view the great mass of the minster rising above the rounded trees.

LIST OF MEMBERS ATTENDING THE CONFERENCE.

Among the members and their guests attending the Conference events were the following:—

Mr. Frank Abbey [L.]; Mr. Percy H. Adams [F.]; Mr. T. C. Agutter [R.F.]; Mr. Louis Ambler, F.S.A. [F.]; Mr. J. G. Ambrose; Mrs. J. G. Ambrose; Mr. Harry Andrew [F.]; Mr. W. H. Ansell, M.C. [F.] (President, The Architectural Association); Mr. R. J. Archibald [L.]; Mr. R. M. Archibald.

Capt. Victor Bain [F.]; Mrs. Victor Bain; Mr. F. G. Baker (Chief Clerk, R.I.B.A.); Mr. H. G. Baker [L.]; Mrs. H. G. Baker; Mr. Christian Barman; Mr. E. C. Bell; Mr. J. G. Bell; Mr. R. Bell; Mr. G. Benson; Dr. John Bilson Hon. D.Litt., F.S.A.; Miss Bilson; Mr. E. L. Bird [A.]; Mr. Sheriff E. A. Birks; Mr. W. E. Biscomb; Mrs. W. E. Biscomb; Miss Biscomb; Mr. H. E. Bloor; Mr. M. A. Bone; Mr. Kenneth J. Bonser [A.]; Mrs. Kenneth J. Bonser; Mr.

Walter Brand [A.] (President, Leicester and Leicestershire Society of Architects); Mrs. Walter Brand; Mr. Chas. H. E. Bridgen [F.]; Mrs. Chas. H. E. Bridgen; Mr. D. L. Bridgwater [A.]; Mr. Arnold Brittain; Mr. Chas. A. Broadhead [A.]; Mrs. Chas. A. Broadhead; Mr. F. A. Broadhead [A.]; Mrs. F. A. Broadhead; Mr. A. Brocklehurst [F.]; Mrs. A. Brocklehurst; Mr. G. C. Brownlee; Mr. W. G. Buck [F.]; Mrs. W. G. Buck; Mr. Ernest H. Buckingham [F.]; Mr. A. B. Burleigh.

Mr. A. Lorne Campbell [F.]; Mr. Duncan A. Campbell [F.] (President, Liverpool Architectural Society); Lt.-Col. H. P. Cart de Lafontaine, O.B.E., T.D. [A.]; Mr. C. Cayley; Mr. G. E. Charlewood [A.]; Mr. James F. H. Checkley [Student]; Mr. B. Chippendale [L.]; Mr. L. H. Clarke [A.]; Mr. E. Priestley Cooper; Mrs. E. Priestley Cooper; Mr. Coquet; Mr. Alfred Cowman [L.]; Mr. W. I. Croome; Mr. T. Talfourd Cumming [F.]; Mrs. T. Talfourd Cumming; Mr. Philip H. Cundall [A.].

Mr. Harold A. Dodd, M.A. [A.]; Mrs. Harold A. Dodd; Mr. L. L. Dussault [F.]; Mr. Frederick Dyer; Mrs. Frederick Dyer.

Mr. R. A. Easdale [A.]; Mr. F. C. Eden, M.A., F.S.A. [F.]; Mr. R. J. Edmondson [L.]; Mr. F. E. Pearce Edwards, F.S.A. [F.]; Mrs. F. E. Pearce Edwards; Mr. J. W. English [L.].

Mr. E. G. Felgate [A.]; Sir Banister Fletcher, F.S.A. [F.] (President-Elect R.I.B.A.); Lady Fletcher; Mr. H. M. Fletcher, M.A. [F.]; Mrs. H. M. Fletcher; Mr. G. H. Foggitt, A.R.C.A. [F.] (President, West Yorkshire Society of Architects); Mr. R. C. Foster, M.C. [F.]; Mrs. R. C. Foster; Mr. C. E. Fox.

Mr. H. B. S. Gibbs [A.] (Hon. Secretary, Sheffield, South Yorkshire and District Society of Architects and Surveyors); Mr. W. F. Gibson; Mrs. W. F. Gibson; Mr. J. A. Godfrey; Mr. G. H. Gray [F.]; Mr. Haswell Grayson, M.A. [F.]; Mrs. Haswell Grayson; Lt.-Col. G. R. Griffith [F.]; Mrs. G. R. Griffith.

Mr. C. M. E. Hadfield [F.] (President, Sheffield, South Yorkshire and District Society of Architects and Surveyors); Mr. W. Lethaby Haile [A.]; Miss W. E. Haile; Mr. G. Dudley Harbron [F.] (President, York and East Yorkshire Architectural Society); Mrs. G. Dudley Harbron; Miss S. Harbron; Mr. Arthur Harrison (Chairman, Tees-side Branch, Northern Architectural Society); Mr. R. K. Harrison; Mr. H. de C. Hastings; Mr. J. Herring (Acting Hon. Secretary Tees-side Branch, Northern Architectural Association); Mr. Allanson Hick; Mrs. Allanson Hick; Mr. Clifford Hickson [F.]; Mrs. Clifford Hickson; Mr. S. G. Highmoor; Mr. H. E. Hill [L.]; Mr. Hodgson; Mr. Richard Holt [F.]; Mrs. Richard Holt; Mr. F. J. Horth [F.]; Hon. Geoffrey Howard; Mrs. Geoffrey Howard; Mr. Gerald Hughes; Mr. B. S. Hume [A.]; Mr. Harry Hutt [F.] (President, Berks, Bucks and Oxon Architectural Association); Mrs. Harry Hutt.

Mr. A. Linton Iredale [L.].

Mr. Reginald Jackson [A.] (Hon. Secretary, York and East Yorkshire Architectural Society); Mr. Eric R. Jarrett [A.]; Mr. C. A. Jeffreys; Mr. H. M. Jeffreys [A.]; Mr. C. Johnson; Mr. Francis Jones [F.] (President, Manchester Society of Architects); Mrs. Francis Jones.

Mr. Stewart Kaye [A.]; Mr. Arthur Keen [F.]; Mrs. Arthur Keen; Mr. Arthur Wm. Kenyon [F.]; Mrs. Arthur Wm. Kenyon; Mr. John Keppie, A.R.S.A. [F.]; Miss Jessie Keppie; Mr. E. Bertram Kirby, O.B.E. [F.]; Mrs. E. Bertram Kirby; Mr. Llewellyn Kitchen [F.]; Mr. Sydney D. Kitson, M.A., F.S.A. [F.] (Hon. Secretary, R.I.B.A.); Mrs. Sydney D. Kitson.

Mr. C. Leckenby [A.]; Mrs. Leckenby; Mr. Joseph W. Lee [Student]; Mr. C. Le Maistre; Mr. T. Alwyn Lloyd [F.] (President, South Wales Institute of Architects); Mr. R. T. Longden [F.]; Mrs. R. T. Longden; Miss M. R. Longden.

Mr. Ian MacAlister, M.A. (Secretary, R.I.B.A.); Mrs. MacAlister; Miss J. McCowan; Mr. R. Norman MacKellar

[A.] (Hon. Secretary, Northern Architectural Association); Mr. C. S. Madeley [A.]; Miss E. M. Mallinson; Mr. F. H. Mansford [L.]; Mrs. F. L. Mansford; Mr. T. E. Marshall [F.]; Mrs. Marshall; Miss Marshall; Mr. J. H. Martindale, F.S.A. [F.] (President, Northern Architectural Association); Mrs. J. H. Martindale; Mr. C. B. Mathews; Mrs. C. B. Mathews; Hon. H. A. Methuen; Mrs. A. Methuen; Mr. T. R. Milburn [F.]; Mrs. T. R. Milburn; Mrs. J. Miller; Mr. H. Monkman; Mr. J. Inch Morrison [F.]; Mrs. J. Inch Morrison.

Mr. C. W. C. Needham [A.]; Mrs. C. W. C. Needham; Mr. Wm. A. Nelson.

Mr. Charles Oliver [L.]; Mrs. Charles Oliver.

Mr. H. Payne; Mrs. W. L. Payne; Mr. F. T. Penty [F.]; Mr. W. T. Plume [Hon. A.]; Mr. E. A. Pollard [L.]; Mrs. E. A. Pollard; Miss Pollard; Mr. H. D. Pritchett [F.]; Mr. Stanley C. Punchard [A.]; Mrs. Stanley C. Punchard.

Lt.-Col. George Reavell, O.B.E. [F.]; Mrs. George Reavell; Mr. T. Taliesin Rees, J.P. [F.]; Mrs. T. Taliesin Rees; Mr. J. E. Reid [L.]; Mrs. J. E. Reid; Miss Reid; Miss Reid; Professor C. H. Reilly, O.B.E., M.A. [F.]; Mrs. C. H. Reilly; Miss Patricia Reilly; Mr. James H. Renton, M.A., F.S.A., J.P. [Subscriber R.I.B.A.]; Professor A. E. Richardson, F.S.A. [F.]; Mrs. A. E. Richardson; Miss Richardson; Mr. L. Richardson; Mr. T. W. T. Richardson [F.]; Miss Richardson; Mr. E. O. Robinson [A.]; Mr. Bertram Robson; Mr. Colin Rowntree [A.]; Mrs. Colin Rowntree; Mr. J. Hervey Rutherford [F.]; Mrs. J. Hervey Rutherford.

Mr. Eric W. B. Scott [F.] (Hon. Secretary, Norfolk and Norwich Association of Architects); Mrs. Eric W. B. Scott; Mr. Thomas E. Scott [F.]; Mr. T. Taylor Scott [F.] (Chairman, Cumberland Branch, Northern Architectural Association); Mr. J. Senior; Mr. B. Priestley Shires [F.] (Hon. Secretary, Plymouth Branch, Devon and Cornwall Architectural Society); Mr. J. Arthur Smith [F.] (President, Hampshire and Isle of Wight Architectural Association); Mrs. J. Arthur Smith; Capt. W. Ward Smith; Mrs. W. Ward Smith; Mr. M. E. Stahl [A.]; Mrs. M. E. Stahl; Mr. W. Stainsby; Mr. Wm. Steel [L.]; Professor J. E. A. Steggall, M.A., F.R.S.E. [Hon. A.]; Mr. J. Stewart; Mrs. A. M. Stewart; Professor M. J. Stewart; Mrs. M. J. Stewart; Mr. C. H. Strange [F.] (Chairman, Tunbridge Wells District, Chapter, South-Eastern Society of Architects); Mr. C. Sunderland [A.]; Mrs. Sunderland; Mr. Charles Sykes [Student]; Mr. J. Stuart Syme [F.] (Past President, York and East Yorkshire Architectural Society); Mrs. J. Stuart Syme.

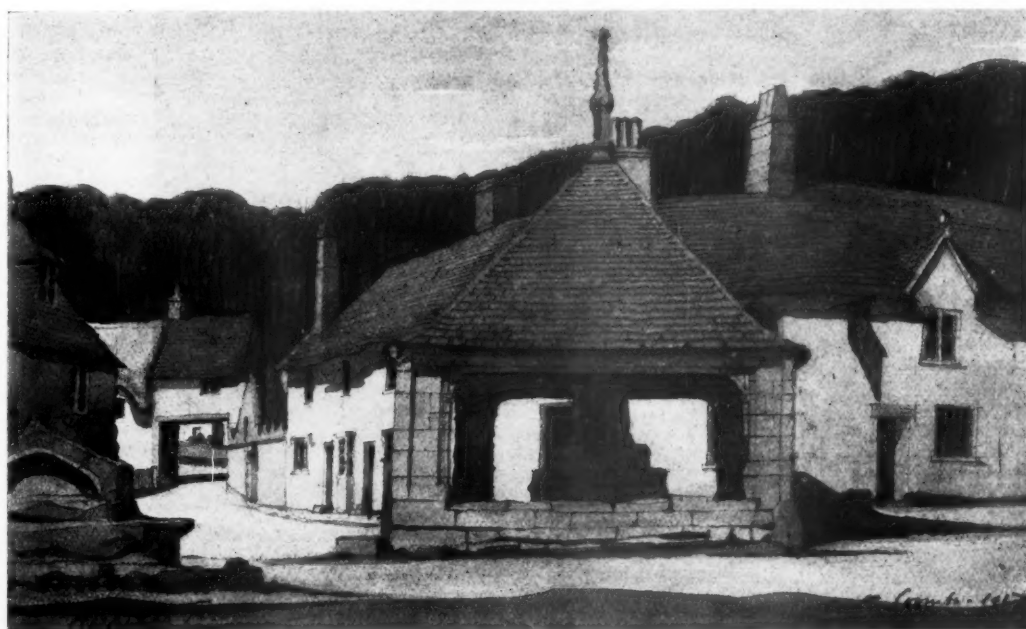
Mr. Walter Tapper, A.R.A., F.S.A. (President, R.I.B.A.); Mrs. Tapper; Mr. Andrew K. Tasker [F.]; Mr. J. C. Amory Teather [L.]; Mr. Noel Terry; Mrs. Noel Terry; Mr. Percy E. Thomas, O.B.E. [F.]; Mrs. Percy E. Thomas; Professor A. Hamilton Thompson, M.A., D.Litt., F.S.A. [Hon. A.]; Mrs. A. Hamilton Thompson; Mr. J. O. Thompson [A.]; Mr. M. Thompson [F.]; Mr. A. Newton Thorpe; Mrs. E. M. Thorpe; Mr. J. C. P. Toothill [A.]; Mr. F. Tranmer [A.]; Mr. Trotter; Mr. F. W. Tumbrell; Mr. Laurence A. Turner, F.S.A. [Hon. A.].

Mr. John Vause; Mrs. John Vause; Mr. F. X. Velarde [A.]; Mr. H. J. Venning [A.]; Miss Joan Venning; Mr. T. H. H. Vowles [A.]; Mrs. T. H. H. Vowles; Miss Vowles.

Canon D. Walker; Mrs. Walker; Miss Walker; Mr. Kenneth Ward [L.]; Mrs. Kenneth Ward; Mr. H. P. Warwick; Mr. W. E. Watson [F.]; Mr. W. Harold Watson [F.]; Miss Barbara Watson; Mr. W. Eustace Watson; Mrs. T. Watts; Mr. T. W. Whipp [A.] and Guest; Mr. Wellington White [Student]; Mrs. Wellington White; Mr. Sidney Williamson; Rev. Edward Wilson; Mr. T. Butler Wilson [F.]; Miss I. Wolsey; Mr. W. L. Wood; Dr. Percy S. Worthington, M.A., Litt.D., F.S.A. [F.]; Mr. Raymond C. Wrinch [A.]; Mrs. Raymond C. Wrinch.

Mr. T. C. Yates [A.].

Exhibition of Mr. A. B. Knapp-Fisher's Watercolour Drawings



CASTLE COOMBE, WILTS

Watercolour drawing by A. B. Knapp-Fisher [F.]

The new Perrin Gallery at Leighton House in Holland Park Road, designed by the late Halsey Ricardo and carried out by Henry M. Fletcher, is worth a pilgrimage for its own sake. The interest was enhanced for a few days in June by the exhibition, in its upper portion, of some 50 or more watercolours by A. B. Knapp-Fisher, F.R.I.B.A. A few of these drawings illustrated his own architectural work, but the majority were pictures of old buildings and village streets, done for the artist's own delight, and seen with an admirable sense of pattern and tone. Mr. Knapp-Fisher's illustrations to "Oxford Renowned" had prepared one for a pleasant hour among his original watercolours, and the expectation was in no way belied. He is happiest in his less highly coloured drawings. When he goes to the Highlands of Scotland his work is reminiscent of Sir D. J. Cameron, but without his model's cleanness and purity of colour. In Oxford, however, and in the villages of Oxfordshire, he finds subjects suitable for his fine drawing and his instinct for tone values. Those drawings which are nearest to monochromes are, perhaps, the most satisfactory. His "Castle Coombe" with the roofed-over village

cross in the centre, with houses grouped round it and the stark trees in the background, is a particularly good example of Mr. Knapp-Fisher's distinctive style. His "Chelsea Old Church"—which was shown recently at the R.I.B.A. Exhibition of members' drawings—is a fine thing. "The Jolly Farmers, Oxford," is represented by both a sepia drawing and a watercolour. The sepia seems the more satisfactory of the two. "Swanage" is almost a monochrome, and an admirable bit of work, and "The Canal, Oxford," represents the artist as a skilled patternist. S. D. K.

*ENGLISH HOSPITAL PLANNING.

Cannon Place,
Hampstead, N.W.3,
5 July 1929.

To the Editor, JOURNAL R.I.B.A.—

DEAR SIR,—As the form of handles for hospital doors is debated, by far the most suitable is the push handle, as any object, or the hip or elbow, can be used to open the door. It was introduced some fifty years ago, but never took the public fancy.—Yours truly,

FLINDERS PETRIE.

* See R.I.B.A. JOURNALS, 15 and 29 June ante.



THE JOLLY FARMERS, OXFORD
Water Colour Drawing by A. B. Knapp-Fisher [F.]



THE CANAL, OXFORD
Water Colour Drawing by A. B. Knapp-Fisher [F.]

Official Architecture and the Design of Public Buildings*

BY SIR A. BRUMWELL THOMAS [F.]

As the guest of the Architecture Club last May the Marquess of Londonderry, who was then First Commissioner of Works, spoke at considerable length on the subject of "The relationship which should exist between the State and architecture," a full report of which was published in *The Times* of 2 May. Lord Londonderry occupies a very distinguished position in public affairs, and we may assume that the general principles laid down in his speech do fairly represent the view of the Office of Works over which the First Commissioner presides, including the extremely important general principle that the design of the whole of the State buildings throughout this country should be entirely withdrawn from the general practice of architecture and be transferred to the Office of Works.

I think there is room for another point of view. It may be said without doubt that the growth of official architecture in this country has reached a stage at which it needs consideration, not as an issue between members of the Royal Institute of British Architects in private practice and those in official positions, but as a matter of serious public interest in its bearing on the free development of the art of architecture. It is possible to go further, and say that the transfer of the design of public buildings to official departments is a matter of very serious concern to those best able to judge through out the whole Empire.

The Office of Works is an important official department, and its function the maintenance and repair of existing Government buildings. Its growth since the war and the enormous extent of the present activities of the Department have only recently been made public. With further information from the Oversea Dominions, the United States, and the principal countries of Europe, it will be possible to speak with greater certainty, but, so far as is known at present, there is no official department with such powers and carrying out such a programme of work anywhere else in the world.

The considered policy of the Office of Works has been made clear by the recent speech and still more clear by the recent action of the First Commissioner in charge of the Department. It is a policy of sufficient magnitude to justify the Royal Institute, as the representative body of the architects in this country and of the allied societies in the Dominions of the Empire, in raising the question with his Majesty's Government, praying that the circumstances may be investigated by an independent Government Commission such as that which reported on the proposed destruction of Waterloo Bridge. In the past the Royal Institute has brought its great influence to bear on public opinion for the preservation of the great monuments of past architecture and in preserving the English country side, and the importance of those issues connected with the past is not greater than that of the de-

sign of public buildings in this country now and in the future.

The building programme of the Office of Works for the present year is officially stated to include altogether nearly 400 public buildings—Law Courts, administrative offices, laboratories, museums, an extension of the National Portrait Gallery, 56 new employment exchanges, 300 post offices and telephone exchanges, the Rampton State Institution, costing nearly £250,000, a training centre for the Air Ministry, and 14 new diplomatic and consular buildings abroad, including a large Embassy scheme at Tokyo.

It is claimed by the Office of Works that under an official department there is a saving to the State. This claim needs confirmation, and its independent investigation should form part of the inquiry; but whether it is found in the end that there is, or is not, some slight saving in the percentage of cost in the matter of fees, nevertheless there is very grave doubt as to whether an official department must not in the long run be detrimental to the best interests of architecture, an art which is more likely to flourish in the freer atmosphere and under the more direct competitive stimulus of private practice than in large departments, where administrative work and administrative ability must receive first consideration and routine courses are likely to become established.

Sir Reginald Blomfield, R.A., in writing to *The Times* on 9 July on the relation of the State to modern art, said in the course of his letter:—"The formidable position is that, while on the one hand the Government is indifferent to living art, in the vitally important art of architecture, it deliberately blocks the way of the free individual artist. In an excellent letter to *The Times*, Sir Brumwell Thomas called attention to the excessive activities of the Office of Works, and the paralysing effect on architecture that must result from official routine. A suggestion was recently made by Lord Londonderry, then First Commissioner of Works, that the design of all State buildings should be transferred to the Office of Works, and it appears that in the present year the Office contemplates designing no fewer than 400 of these buildings, including one costing a quarter of a million. I must point out with all respect to the very capable architects of the Office of Works that it cannot be contended for one moment that the best architectural ability of the country is confined within its walls, and the suggestion appears to be an attempt on the part of that Office to create for itself a monopoly of design, which is bad for architecture, unfair to architects, who have to make their living like other people, and not in the best interest of the public. The inordinate appetite of bureaucracies is a standing menace in the modern State, which should be closely watched and firmly resisted.

* From *The Times* 5 July 1929.

Science Standing Committee

REPORT OF THE SUB-COMMITTEE ON DAMP HOUSES.

[The following report, which has been approved by the Council, has been printed in pamphlet form, and copies can be obtained on application to the Secretary R.I.B.A., price 6d. each.]

The Science Standing Committee will remember that the Science Committee of the British Medical Association approached the Royal Institute in December 1926 with a request for assistance upon investigations into the reasons for dampness which they found prevalent in particular types of dwellings in particular districts, and also for the help of the Royal Institute in a joint campaign for improving or preventing the erection of these types of houses.

This request followed upon the inquiry of the British Medical Association Science Committee into the causes of a certain disease, but the Sub-Committee of the R.I.B.A. Science Standing Committee have disregarded any particular disease in their investigations, which have been general in accordance with their terms of reference, which were as follows:—

"To investigate the causes and prevention of dampness in dwellings."

The Sub-Committee consisted of the following members:—
Dr. Raymond Unwin, Chairman, Science Standing Committee.

Major C. F. Skipper, Honorary Secretary, Science Standing Committee.

Mr. P. W. Barnett.

Mr. J. Ernest Franck.

Mr. G. N. Kent.

Mr. Alan E. Munby.

Mr. H. D. Searles-Wood.

Mr. R. Elsey Smith.

Mr. Percy J. Waldram.

They first heard the evidence of Dr. Reginald Miller, F.R.C.P., and Dr. A. P. Thomson, M.R.C.P., submitted on behalf of the Science Committee of the British Medical Association. Dr. Miller gave evidence of dampness in particular types of town dwellings showing the storeys thereby affected. Dr. Thomson gave evidence showing the line of dampness in a district. While these witnesses could show the peculiarities of dampness either in a particular dwelling or district, they were not in a position to advance any reasons for the effects they observed.

The magnitude of the problem may be judged from a perusal of the Annual Report of the Ministry of Health, under Parts 1 and 2 of the Housing Act.

With a view to obtaining further evidence necessary for their task, the Sub-Committee prepared a questionnaire and asked the Society of Medical Officers of Health to assist them by circularising all its members throughout the country, and would take this opportunity of expressing their thanks for the help they received.

A considerable amount of evidence was collected indicating the causes of dampness, which may be summarised as follows:—

(1) Absence of, insufficiency of, or defects in damp courses whether horizontal or vertical.

(2) Absence of, insufficiency of, or defects in the covering of the ground over the internal area of the dwelling, or the covering of the ground immediately adjoining the dwelling.

(3) Lack of, or insufficiency of the drainage of the subsoil.

(4) Porosity or the capacity of the materials forming the walls to absorb moisture, or the construction of the walls.

(5) Defects mainly due to lack of maintenance but including some cases of faulty roof construction.

(6) Condensation on internal surfaces of walls.

The nature of the returns only admitted of a profitable

analysis in the case of fifty-three new houses, which, however, were of various types and from various localities.

Of the cases of damp recorded in fifty-three houses less than ten years old, the percentage of the different causes is as follows:—

(1)	26.6	(4)	32.8
(2)	14.4	(5)	18.3
(3)	5.9	(6)	2.0

Of 1,014 cases of damp houses more than ten years old in respect of which information adequate for analysis was given, the percentages are as follows:—

(1)	13.3	(4)	12.1
(2)	0.2	(5)	64.9
(3)	3.9	(6)	5.6

Omitting the causes mainly due to lack of maintenance, i.e. (5), the percentages are as follows:—

	Houses less than 10 years old.	Houses of a greater age.
(1)	32.6	37.9
(2)	17.6	0.6
(3)	7.2	11.1
(4)	40.1	34.4
(6)	2.5	16.0

In the case of the houses which are more than ten years old it is evident that the present causes of dampness chiefly arise from the original absence of a damp course and from insufficient maintenance, a conclusion which is largely supported by the observations of each medical officer who forwarded information on the matter.

The Sub-Committee make the following comments and suggestions in regard to the several items of the reports which have been analysed:—

Item 1.

The high proportion of reported cases of dampness due to the absence of, or defects in, damp courses in new dwellings is surprising. While the absence of this protection in old buildings may be expected it may be recorded that as regards buildings erected within recent years, all codes of building bye-laws, and the conditions on which certain relaxations of bye-laws have been permitted, are alike in calling for an adequate damp course, consequently its absence in new buildings must imply failure to comply with this bye-law, while defects arise from improper compliance or the use of damp course materials of inferior quality. It is considered that these defects call for stricter supervision of building in respect of damp courses and, particularly, greater care to prohibit the use of any materials for this purpose other than those of proved durability. Many materials on the market which have been extensively used are of very doubtful value. The Sub-Committee wish to point out that the difference between damp courses of reliable and inferior quality may not easily be detected by mere casual inspection, and the question is worthy of consideration whether damp course materials should not be subject to standard specification.

Items 2 and 3.

It seems clear that damp in a number of cases arises from failure to cover the whole surface of the ground within the building with concrete, or the use for such purpose of unsuitable concrete. It is probable that the extensive use of solid floors for small dwellings during the time when timber was scarce

and expensive has increased the difficulty in this respect, as concrete which might be adequate if there is intervening between the surface and the under side of the floor a thoroughly well ventilated air space might not be adequate to protect a solid floor. It should be realised that surface concrete is seldom completely impervious to moisture, and that in the case of any kind of solid floor, wherever there is liable to be damp in the sub-soil on which the concrete rests, a completely dry floor can only be secured if a layer of hard broken material forming a layer unable to conduct moisture by capillarity be interposed between the concrete and the soil. It is obvious, however, that such a layer will be worse than useless, if, for want of sub-soil drainage, the water level can rise into it.

In some bye-laws, concrete is required in all cases; in others it is only required "wherever the dampness of the site or the nature of the soil renders such a protection necessary," and it is possible that surveyors have been willing to dispense with this protection without exercising sufficient care. Surface concrete should only be dispensed with, if ever, when it is quite clear that the surface of the ground will be exceptionally dry.

Item 4.

It is important to note that the principal cause of damp in the new houses appears to be the *porosity* or faulty construction of the walls. This cause is prominent also in the older houses, and it must be remembered that it is likely that the exposure in the case of the older houses is less than in the case of the new. It is considered that the majority of cases of penetration of damp through external walls in post-war houses has occurred where traditional solid brick or masonry or solid concrete walls have been employed. A high proportion of the "alternative" methods of construction have involved the use of a cavity wall construction, and whatever the other defects of these systems they can be considered, on the whole, to have prevented the access of moisture from exterior to interior to a greater degree than certain traditional systems extensively employed.

It must be borne in mind that water may pass to the interior either under a head, as when rain is passing over the external surface with a strong wind blowing, or (even in a dense material) through the operation of capillary forces, and that the surest way of obviating both these effects is to provide a continuous cavity in external walls. With solid brick or masonry external walls recourse is often made to an external cement-rendering to provide *impermeability*; it is extremely difficult to guard against the possibility of shrinkage cracks developing in such renderings, and should these cracks occur, damp conditions are more likely to become serious than with an unrendered wall; water passing over the surface of the rendering will enter the wall through the cracks and the tendency will be for it to evaporate from the more porous interior face and thus cause a cold wall.

The tendency to cut down the overhang at the eaves is undoubtedly a retrograde step. There is no doubt that the value of overhanging eaves in keeping the external walls dry is much greater than is generally appreciated.

Item 5.

Defective maintenance naturally shows itself to a greater extent in the old buildings. It is not possible to differentiate accurately between cases solely due to want of repair and those which are aggravated by original defects in the structure, but it is evident that much damp is due to inadequate maintenance of buildings particularly in regard to roofs, rain water gutters, and the like.

It is recognised that repairs to a large number of dwellings are annually secured by the Local Authorities through the means of inspection, closing orders, etc. In view of the great injury to property as well as health which may arise from

the neglect to carry out such repairs, there can be no reason for hesitation on the part of those whose business it is to call upon owners, and, if necessary, compel them to keep their property in repair. So far from thus imposing any hardship on the owners in regard to such matters as here mentioned, the prompt repair is by far the most economical.

It is, of course, the duty of the designer to pay due attention to the question of maintenance in house construction and to avoid the use of features which are specially liable to develop defects.

It seems evident that sufficient care is not generally taken to secure a thoroughly water and snow proof roof, and in this respect it is probable that the use of various types of pan tiles or interlocking tiles without proper treatment, or with unsuitable pitch, has been the cause of a good deal of trouble. In regard to flat tiles and slates, insufficient pitch and perishable nails or inadequate lap are frequently a source of danger. It should not be lost sight of that roofing tiles are at present unstandardised, and that it is not possible by visual inspection to detect an unsatisfactory tile.

The practice of bedding tiles down on to gable walls may lead to the penetration of moisture under certain circumstances. Some tiles which are quite satisfactory over the general roof surface may be sufficiently permeable to allow of the transmission of moisture by capillarity when bedded in mortar on the wall.

The use of cement fillets alone between roofs and walls or other vertical surfaces is considered undesirable. The shrinkage of roof timbers causes movement and the tendency of cement and cement mortar to shrink on drying is well known; where such movement or shrinkage may provide a passage for moisture cement should be banned.

Item 6.

While condensation in the form of running water on a wall normally dry occurs usually on the more impervious surfaces (e.g. varnished wall-paper, paint or hard plaster) on a more porous surface of the same temperature and conductivity similar condensation will occur, although it may be absorbed, and, therefore, invisible; in either case, it means a removal of moisture from the air in the room. The significance of condensation is that it is an indication of low wall temperature. To avoid condensation and the danger to health of cold walls it is desirable that the construction should be such as to permit of the interior surface of the wall being rapidly heated up.

In view of the great importance for health of dry dwellings, the Sub-Committee draw special attention to the fact that satisfactory conditions depend mostly on roofs, walls and protection from damp ground, and they wish to emphasise that no considerations of economy in cost can justify sacrificing the necessary treatments to secure a reliable water-proof shell for the building as regards roof, walls and floor, as well as damp course protection. The Sub-Committee strongly recommend that the erection of dwelling-houses should be subject to stricter technical supervision, whether by Architects engaged to supervise the work or by properly qualified Officers of Local Authorities. It is clearly undesirable that buildings with defects as to protection from damp should continue to be erected mainly for want of such adequate supervision. The Sub-Committee would also draw attention to the fact that bye-laws alone, as they now stand, do not provide a complete safeguard so far as resistance to the penetration of damp is concerned, and certain amendments to the Public Health Act are necessary, or would be necessary to enable the bye-laws to deal with several important matters. The Sub-Committee recommend that suitable amendments in the Act should be made.

March 1929.

Allied Societies

Notice

SOUTH-EASTERN SOCIETY OF ARCHITECTS.

The South-Eastern Society of Architects have arranged a visit to Reigate on 20 July.

PROGRAMME.

Saturday, 20 July, 10.30 o'clock.—Members will assemble at the Municipal Buildings, Reigate, where they will be received by his Worship the Mayor and the Chairmen of the Guildford and Croydon Chapters (Colonel Wilfred Hardcastle, F.R.I.B.A., and Briant Poulter, Esq., F.R.I.B.A.). The following conducted visits will be made :—

- (a) St. Mary's Parish Church, Portions, *circa* 1200.
- (b) The Crypt of the Market House, *circa* 1350.
- (c) Reigate Priory (by permission of Earl Beatty).

12.30 o'clock.—Luncheon will be served at the "White Hart Hotel," Reigate.

2 o'clock.—Visits will be made by motor cars and charabancs to :—

- (a) Gatton Hall (by permission of Sir Jeremiah Colman, Bt.).
- (b) Gatton Park and Church.
- (c) Pendell Court, sixteenth century (by permission of Mrs. W. A. Bell), and other sixteenth and seventeenth century houses.
- (d) Blethingley Village and Church.

Tea will be served at the sixteenth century hostelry, "the White Hart," after which the return drive will be made to the Castel Grounds and Dungeons at Reigate.

Report

ESSEX, CAMBS AND HERTS SOCIETY OF ARCHITECTS.

WEST ESSEX CHAPTER.

A meeting of the West Essex Chapter of the Essex, Cambs and Herts Society of Architects was held on Saturday, 29 June. After luncheon at the City Livery Club, St. Paul's Churchyard, the whole party visited Britannic House, Finsbury Circus, where Mr. Melvin acted as guide on behalf of the owners. The steel and marble pavement heating on the main floor, the egg and dart mouldings minus the fillet in marble architraves, the globe echo-absorber in the board-room, the auto-telephone and heating equipment especially attracted our attention. We next visited the Old Hall of Lincoln's Inn. By a happy coincidence the London Society was also inspecting it, so that we were able to see the interior. The leaded glass, the electroliers, and indeed the whole work, was greatly admired. We then viewed the exterior of the Auctioneers' Institute. The scale of this building gives it an added charm; for once, in these days of immense buildings, it was possible to view the whole elevation and appreciate its harmonies.

On the Chairman's suggestion we returned by way of the Margaret MacDonald memorial.

The next stop was at Wren's gateway at the Temple. We strolled through Lamb's Court and Fountain Court by Essex Court, past the Crusaders' Church. Mr. Curtis Green received us at 60 Piccadilly, and showed us the only "lacquer" bank in the world. The afternoon came to an end at Chester House, where Sir Giles and Lady Scott gave us tea.

R.I.B.A. PROBATIONERS.

During the month of June 1929, the following were registered as Probationers of the Royal Institute :—

- AITON : NORAH, Duffield Park, Duffield, Derbyshire.
- ALBERY : JESSICA MARY, The Manor House, Farningham, Kent.
- ATKINS : MARIAN LISBETH, "Teela," Bayham Road, Tunbridge Wells.
- AVERY : NORMAN LEWIS LAWRENCE, 82 Hatherley Road, Winchester.
- BARRY : DENNIS EGERTON, c/o National Bank of South Africa, Circus Place, London Wall, E.C.2.
- BRAY : FREDERICK CHARLES, 11 Penare Road, Penzance, Cornwall.
- BRISTOW : ALEXANDER, 39 Brondesbury Park, London, N.W.6.
- BROWN : ROBERT SMART, 47 Hamilton Place, Aberdeen.
- BURTON : JOHN WALCOT, 8A Fordwych Road, Brondesbury, N.W.2.
- COSTER : CECIL WALLACE, "Canberra," Beddington Gardens, Wallington, Surrey.
- COUTTS : GEORGE ALLAN, 21 Cambridge Road, Southport.
- CRIGHTON : ALBERT, 107 Bedford Road, Bootle.
- CROSS : ROBERT PICTON, 5 Gaycroft Road, Burnham-on-Sea.
- CRUICKSHANK : ALEXANDER JAMES, 15 Gannochy Green, Perth, Scotland.
- CRUICKSHANK : GEORGE LESLIE, "The Neuk," Fyvie, Aberdeenshire.
- DARCH : JOHN THOMAS, 16 Shirley Road, Roath Park, Cardiff.
- DAVIES : THOMAS ELWYN, "Bryn," Pine Walks, Prenton, Birkenhead.
- DOUGLAS : PERCIVAL HOWARD, "Green Den," Stonehaven, Kincardineshire.
- DUCKETT : BASIL GEORGE, 17 Eden Avenue, Lytham, Lancs.
- DULEY : EDWARD ALFRED, 55 Lothrop Street, Queen's Park Estate, London, W.10.
- EARLE : DENNIS CHARLES, 39 Ashburnham Road, Luton, Beds.
- EDELSTON : RICHARD CHAMBERS, 7 Dysart Buildings, Nantwich, Cheshire.
- ELDRIDGE-SMITH : ARTHUR MORETON, McIntyre Street, Woolloowin, Brisbane, Queensland.
- GERRARD : ARTHUR ELI, 42 Juxon Street, Oxford.
- GOODING : CORNELIUS JOHN ERIC, 33 Watling Street, Canterbury, Kent.
- GORING : JAMES ARTHUR, South Road, Taunton, Somerset.
- GRIFFITH : WILLIAM ALEXANDER, 116 Bedford Street, Liverpool.
- HANSON : CHARLES FRANCIS RICHARD, 23 Durham Road, Sheffield.
- HALLS : EDWARD WALTER, 42 Navigation Road, Chelmsford.
- HARDY : DANIEL GUY, Sandfield Lodge, Lichfield, Staffs.
- HARRIS : ERIC BRIGHT, "Brackendene," 15 Binley Road, Stoke, Coventry.
- HASWELL : GEORGE JOSEPH WATSON, 67 Victoria Road, Alexandra Park, N.22.
- HAWKES : WILLIAM NEVILLE, "Netherwood," Lode Lane, Solihull, Warwick.
- HIRST : ROBERT ARTHUR, "Collingham," 34 Harewood Avenue, Bournemouth.
- HOLDEN : GERALD TAYLOR, 2 Aldwych Place, Blackburn, Lancs.
- HOLLINGS : PHYLLIS GAUNT, "Dunleath," Alexandra Road, Sale, Nr. Manchester.
- HORNE : ROBERT, 7 Netley Terrace, Southsea, Hants.
- INNES : DOUGLAS WILLIAM, 17 Caledonian Place, Aberdeen.
- JONES : CLIFFORD HARDING, 18 Wheelers Lane, Kings Heath, Birmingham.
- KNOTT : EDMUND VERNON, 14 Bents Drive, Sheffield.
- LEDEBOER : JUDITH G., 42 Marryat Road, London, S.W.19.

LYDNEY: PHILIP ALGERNON, "Penshurst," Telegraph Road, Heswall, Ches.
 MANSFIELD: JOHN LESLIE STEPHEN, 102 Cromwell Road, S.W.7.
 MARTIN: ROBERT HENRY, 120 Bromley Road, Beckenham, Kent.
 MILES: ERIC GEORGE RICHARD, "Altdorf," 20 Menlove Avenue, Mossley Hill, Liverpool.
 MISTRY: RATANJI RASTAMJI, "Uru-igar Bungalow," Opp. Marine Lines Station, Queens Road, Bombay.
 MOFFAT: JOHN ALLAN, "Kenmure," Aigburth Drive, Sefton Park, Liverpool.
 MORRISON: ROBERT JAMES, 24 Cedar Place, Aberdeen.
 MURRAY: MARJORIE, 11 Dogo Street, Cardiff.
 OWEN: GORDON FREDERICK, 92 Checketts Road, Leicester.
 PIDGEON: RAYMOND VINCENT, 15 Nield Crescent, Hendon, N.W.4.
 RANDALL: GERALD FRAYNE, Flat 3, 23 Soho Square, London, W.1.
 RATSEY: HAROLD ARTHUR, Moat House, Moat Road, East Grinstead, Sussex.
 SEDDON: BRINNAND, Higher Whitley, Greenhill, Wigan.
 SEGRAIS: JOSEPH, JOHN, LE JUGE DE, 13 Rue du Cherchemidi, Paris VI, France.
 SHEWAN: WILLIAM WYLLIE CLARK, 14 Calsayseat Road, Aberdeen.
 SOYSA: EVANS LANCELOT FREDERICK DE, School of Architecture, Liverpool.
 STEWART: JAMES ALAN, 28 Spring Gardens, Didsbury, Manchester.
 TAYLOR: ERNEST, 24 Currock Street, Carlisle.
 TOUGH: ALEXANDER, 20 Wellbrae Terrace, Aberdeen, N.B.
 THOMAS: GEOFFREY SWAYNE, 30 Newton Road, Cambridge.
 TURNBULL: ALFRED, John Street, Blairgowrie, Perthshire.
 WARREN: WALTER LESLIE, 11 Church Street, Luton, Beds.
 WATTS: SIDNEY JOHN, 15 Desswood Place, Aberdeen.
 YOUNG: ALAN RUTHERFORD, 23 North Street, Dudley.

Notices

THE R.I.B.A. KALENDAR 1929-30.

The attention of members is drawn to the leaflet enclosed with this issue of the JOURNAL. Changes of address, etc., for inclusion in the forthcoming issue of the Kalendar should be notified to the Secretary R.I.B.A. before Saturday, 7 September.

EXHIBITION IN THE R.I.B.A. GALLERIES.

An exhibition of photographs of Modern American Skyscrapers, kindly lent by Mr. Alfred C. Bossom [F.], will be held in the R.I.B.A. Galleries from Monday, 22 July to Friday, 2 August inclusive, and will be open daily between the hours of 10 a.m. and 7 p.m. (Saturday, 2 p.m.)

ELECTION OF MEMBERS, 2 DECEMBER 1929.

Associates who are eligible and desirous of transferring to the Fellowship Class are reminded that if they wish to take advantage of the election to take place on 2 December 1929, they should send the necessary nomination forms to the Secretary R.I.B.A. not later than Saturday, 28 September 1929.

LICENTIATES AND THE FELLOWSHIP.

The attention of Licentiates is called to the provisions of Section IV, Clause 4 (b) and (c) of the Supplemental Charter of 1925. Licentiates who are eligible and desirous of transferring to the Fellowship can obtain full particulars on application to the Secretary R.I.B.A.,

stating the clause under which they propose to apply for nomination.

COMPOSITION OF MEMBERS' SUBSCRIPTIONS FOR LIFE MEMBERSHIP.

The attention of members is drawn to the scheme for compounding subscriptions for Life Membership which was approved by the General Body at the Business Meeting held on Monday, 5 December 1927.

Fellows, Associates and Licentiates of the Royal Institute may become Life Members by compounding their respective annual subscriptions on the following basis:—

For a Fellow by a payment of £73 10s. (70 guineas).

For an Associate or Licentiate by a payment of £44 2s. (42 guineas), with a further payment of £29 8s. on being admitted as a Fellow.

Provided always that in the case of a Fellow or Associate the above compositions are to be reduced by £1 1s. per annum for every completed year of membership of the Royal Institute after the first five years, and in the case of a Licentiate by £1 1s. per annum for every completed year of membership of the Royal Institute.

R.I.B.A. STATUTORY EXAMINATIONS.

The R.I.B.A. Statutory Examinations for the Office of District Surveyor under the London Building Acts, or Building Surveyor under Local Authorities, will be held at the R.I.B.A., London, on 16, 17, and 18 October 1929.

The closing date for receiving applications for admission to the Examinations accompanied by the fee of £3 3s., is 1 October 1929.

Full particulars of the Examinations and application forms can be obtained from the Secretary R.I.B.A.

R.I.B.A. EXAMINATIONS AND PUPILS IN ARCHITECTS' OFFICES.

The Board of Architectural Education wish to urge upon Members of the R.I.B.A. who have pupils in their offices the desirability of affording them early opportunities for the study of design.

The Board have found as a result of observation that candidates in the R.I.B.A. Examinations do not appear to have started their study of design at a sufficiently early state in their training.

ISOMETRIC DRAWING OF ST. PAUL'S CATHEDRAL.

The Board of Architectural Education wish to call attention to the Isometric Drawing of St. Paul's Cathedral which has been prepared by Mr. R. B. Brook-Greaves. The drawing is a remarkable one and of great educative value.

Reproductions of the drawing have been made and copies may be obtained on application to the Secretary R.I.B.A., price £1 10s. 6d. each, inclusive of postage.

R.I.B.A. MEETING WITH TEACHERS OF BUILDING.

On Wednesday, 24 July, at 8 p.m., the Board of Architectural Education will hold a meeting with certain representative teachers of building who will be in London on a course arranged by the Board of Education, Whitehall.

The meeting will take the form of a paper followed by a discussion. Mr. J. Murray Easton, F.R.I.B.A., will read the paper, the title of which will be "The Building of the New Horticultural Hall."

Competition

SIMON BOLIVAR MEMORIAL.

PRELIMINARY DETAILS OF A COMPETITION FOR THE ERECTION OF A MONUMENT TO THE LIBERATOR BOLIVAR IN THE CITY OF QUITO.

A competition has been opened for the erection in Quito of a monument to Bolivar.

The Ecuadorean Minister in Paris and two members of the Sociedad Bolivariana of Quito, residing in Paris, will form a Committee to organise and carry out the said competition.

A jury of four members, composed of experts, artists and art critics will judge the works presented.

The designs, "Esbozos" (drawings or sketches), "maquettes," etc., which it is desired to present must be forwarded to the Legation of Ecuador, 91 Avenue Wagram, Paris, not later than 31 October 1929.

The sum of 2,000,000 French francs is available for the purpose of erecting the monument. This sum includes the fees of the artist who will carry out the work, either by himself or with others acting under his direction.

Honourable mention will be awarded to the authors of the designs adjudged second and third.

The decision of the Jury will be submitted to the Sociedad Bolivariana, of Quito, for ratification, prior to the contract with the author of the selected design being signed.

Members' Column

MR. J. O. B. HITCH.

MR. J. O. B. HITCH, A.R.I.B.A., wishes to announce that he has now opened an office in 3 Staple Inn, W.C.1. His telephone number is Holborn 7262.

CHANGE OF ADDRESS.

MR. A. J. BUTCHER, A.R.I.B.A., has changed his address from 2 Premier Parade, Edgware, to 2 Express Mansions, Edgware. Telephone: Edgware 0268.

MR. E. BERRY WEBBER, A.R.I.B.A., has moved from 2 New Square, Lincoln's Inn, W.C.2, to 42 Gordon Square, W.C.1. Telephone: Museum 9473.

APPOINTMENT VACANT.

ASSISTANT ARCHITECT. To be suitably qualified, preference being given to candidates with accepted professional qualifications and training and aptitude for architectural design. Salary £425 per annum. Forms of application may be obtained upon application, enclosing stamped addressed foolscap envelope, to Mr. F. Willey, F.R.I.B.A., F.S.I., 34 Old Elvet, Durham. Last day for receiving applications, 31 July 1929.

PARTNERSHIPS WANTED.

A.R.I.B.A. with exceptional experience, particularly in the design of large high-class buildings, public and domestic, desires partnership, or position with view to partnership.—Apply Box 1559, c/o The Secretary R.I.B.A., 9 Conduit Street, London, W.1.

F.R.I.B.A., artistic and experienced, desires position in an established practice, in London (or London area), with a view to future partnership. Some capital available if required.—Reply Box 9729, c/o The Secretary R.I.B.A., 9 Conduit Street, London, W.1.

OFFICE ACCOMMODATION.

AN Associate with pleasant office in W.C. district is willing to allow use of the address and telephone for a nominal rental with occasional use of the office for interviews.—Apply Box 6729, c/o The Secretary R.I.B.A., 9 Conduit Street, London, W.1.

QUEEN ANNE'S GATE, S.W.1. Architects have two vacant rooms available in their suite, rental £50 p.a.—Apply Box 2769, c/o The Secretary R.I.B.A., 9 Conduit Street, London, W.1.

ASSOCIATE of the Institute with offices in Lincoln's Inn Fields has fine room to let, with service attendance for entrance, etc. Would suit provincial firm requiring London office, or one commencing practice, admirably. Open to discuss conditions with suitable applicant, who must be a principal and a member of the Institute.—Apply Box 8629, c/o The Secretary R.I.B.A., 9 Conduit Street, London, W.1.

FELLOW of the Institute with a West End office having a room to spare desires to meet another architect with a view to sharing accommodation and running expenses.—Reply Box 7474, c/o Secretary R.I.B.A., 9 Conduit Street, London, W.1.

ASSOCIATE is prepared to arrange for occasional use of his office, close to Charing Cross, suitable for provincial member, interviews, etc.—Reply Box 9729, c/o The Secretary R.I.B.A., 9 Conduit Street, London, W.1.

THE INSTITUTE OF ARBITRATORS.

THE Institute of Arbitrators (Incorporated) have changed their address to 35-7 Hastings House, 10 Norfolk Street, Strand, London, W.C.2. Tel. Central 4071.

Minutes XXIII

SESSION 1928-29.

At a Special General Meeting held on Friday, 28 June 1929, at 8.30 p.m.

Professor S. D. Adshead, M.A. [F.] in the Chair.

The attendance book was signed by 16 Fellows (including 6 members of Council), 11 Associates (including 2 members of Council), and a large number of visitors.

The Chairman announced that the meeting had been summoned for the purpose of hearing addresses on "Planning the New York Region," and extended a very cordial welcome to Mr. Jay Downer, Chief Engineer of the Westchester County Park Commission, and to Mr. Thomas Adams, General Director of the Regional Plan of New York and its Environs.

Mr. Jay Downer addressed the meeting and described, with the aid of lantern slides, the growth of the system of parkways in the Westchester County, New York.

Mr. Thomas Adams then described the plan which has recently been completed for the development of a system of circulation and the distribution of land uses in an area comprising 5,528 square miles and having a present population of 10,000,000, with a view to the possible development of the Region in the year 1965.

On the motion of Sir Banister Fletcher, F.S.A. (President-elect), seconded by Dr. Raymond Unwin [F.], a vote of thanks was passed to Mr. Jay Downer and Mr. Thomas Adams, by acclamation, and was briefly responded to.

The proceedings closed at 10.55 p.m.

Members sending remittances by postal order for subscriptions or Institute publications are warned of the necessity of complying with Post Office Regulations with regard to this method of payment. Postal orders should be made payable to the Secretary R.I.B.A., and crossed.

It is desired to point out that the opinions of writers of articles and letters which appear in the R.I.B.A. JOURNAL must be taken as the individual opinions of their authors and not as representative expression of the Institute.

R.I.B.A. JOURNAL.

DATES OF PUBLICATION.—1929: 10 August; 21 September; 19 October.

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